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THE

HAUNTED PALACE,

OR THE

Horrors of Ventoliene.

THE

HAUNTED PALACE,

OR THE

Horrors of Ventoliene;

A ROMANCE,

By Mrs. YORKE,

AUTHOR OF

Valley of Collares, Romance of Smyrna, &c. &c. &c.

Fra cento affanni e cento
Palpito, tremo, e sento
Che freddo dalle vene
Fugge il mio sangue al cor.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:
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1801.

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THE

HAUNTED PALACE,

OR

The Horrors of Ventoliene.

THE spectres advanced, and, in a few minutes, surrounded the pavilion. It is impossible to say whether the terrors of those within, or the horrors of those without, were the greatest; both were terrible. The fiends formed a circle round the trembling group, and, while the whole system of nature appeared convulsed by contending elements, the horrid phantoms per-

formed a mystic dance; loud and tremendous claps of thunder rent the air, as they sung with infernal rapture the following lines:

Round this circle let us flie,
Swifter than the eagle's eye.
Let us tune the mystic lay;
Let us mark our destin'd prey;
Let us snatch a burning brand,
Sear each caitiff in his hand;
Then each subject we shall know,
Whether here or far below.
Let not virtue, let not fear
Claim from us a single tear.
Tear his vitals, drink his gore,
Then our solemn rites are o'er.

This ended, they rushed tumultuously into the pavilion. The senses of all there had been for some minutes harrowed up by terrors inexpressible. They had involuntarily dropped upon their knees, and were with the utmost fervency imploring Heaven for protection.

tion. Each fiend caught, with diabolical eagerness, its destined object, and they were about to put their horrid threats into execution, when the thunder ceased, the sky cleared, and heavenly music was heard at a distance. The phantoms let go their hold, and stood apalled, and, as the music advanced, quitted precipitately the pavilion, uttering the most horrid blasphemies, and disappeared like a vapor in a whirlwind of fire.

The sounds drew nearer, and, at length, rested over their heads, while a sweet fragrance perfumed the air, which, a few minutes before, had breathed nothing but sulphurous smoke. The poor trembling creatures ventured to look around them, and offered up the most grateful thanks to Omnipotence, for their relief. They sought, with eager eye, the divine

musician, but none was visible—all was hushed and silent, save the music; not even a zephyr breathed.

How very different the scene before them! They looked towards the palace; the fire was extinguished, and the wild uproar of contending elements was changed to a dead and solemn silence. The music again sounded in loftier strains, and the following words were distinctly pronounced:

Why should mortals vainly dare
Hidden mysteries to clear?
When the sinner's ransom's paid,
Let his bones in dust be laid,
At Bononi thou shalt meet
Him that's good and him that's great.
From their lips instruction take—
Return, and search the wat'ry lake.

Those words were listened to with the greatest attention, though to all but

but the party that visited the ruins it was wholly unintelligible. *They* drew from it an inference, that made them conclude they were not to make any more searches, till one or all had visited Bononi. The strains ceased; each looked at the other, as if to enquire what it meant; but those that did understand it made no particular remark. Poor Vashti seemed to *feel* the force of the words; the terrors she had undergone, and the sudden transition from them so far affected her, that she fainted away. Several successive fits followed; her husband was distracted; he blamed himself severely for ever going near the abominable chambers, as he called them; he and Michael were firmly persuaded that their going had occasioned these dreadful storms, and the visits of the devils; for such they would have them to be.

Father Gregory was at last happy enough to restore the poor woman, and, as every thing appeared calm, and the fire extinguished at the palace, the captain proposed going to examine what mischief had been done there, Fitzallan and three others accompanying him, while father Gregory and the rest of the company remained in the pavilion with Vashti and Michael, who was in a state of stupefaction, and whom they endeavoured to make sensible that all the danger was past, and they meant to return to the palace; but not all the rhetoric of father Gregory, or the persuasions of the rest of the company, could calm her fears, and she and Michael were in the same state when the captain and Fitzallan returned, to assure them that not the least damage had been done to the part of the dwelling where they resided. They therefore conjured her to resume her forti-

fortitude, and return. Joseph, at last, prevailed with her, and, between them, they carried her in—poor Michael was obliged to be carried also.

As soon as her husband had placed her upon the bed, father Gregory, who was at once their spiritual and bodily physician, ordered an opiate to be administered to both, that their senses might be lulled to rest, before they were again called into action, and, by that means, their reason would not run a risk of derangement.

That done, they all assembled in the great room, where a long and interesting conversation ensued, respecting the horrid sights they had witnessed. Though most of them were in the dark, with respect to the warning, yet they could not be persuaded but that something more was meant than they could

comprehend, and several times expressed a wish, that the rest of the company had been at home, or it had happened a few days before. They were certain something was meant by it; for, they saw the palace on fire, and the lightning burn up the grass and plants, and kill the dogs and the sheep, and yet, now the sky was clear, there did not appear the least vestige of the devastation. They should therefore desire father Gregory to draw up an account of it, and, when the community returned, to show it them, that something might be done to have it explained: for their parts, they said, if ever they were to witness such uproar again, no inducement under heaven should prevail upon them to continue there; for, though every thing appeared as if nothing had happened in the house, yet they were convinced

that

that such another scene would be the death of them.

The captain, Joseph, Fitzallan, and father Gregory, thought as much themselves, but did not say so; for other things engaged their attention. The captain recollected, that the time was nearly expired, when he was obliged to be at Bononi; a circumstance that had before escaped him. He imparted his thoughts to the father and Fitzallan, and said, that, as soon as he got to his room, he would look into his pocket-book, and see how long it was to the time. Further discourse passed, and the father, the captain, and Fitzallan did not fail to strengthen the terrors of their companions, and represent to them how much better it would be for all of them to leave a place and a way of life, that effectually prevented them from enjoying those domestic

comforts, which man is born to possess; but that, in the manner in which they lived, it was impossible to be otherwise than under continual dread and anxiety, not only of the present, but the future.

This discourse had the desired effect, and they came to a resolution, as soon as the rest of the community returned, to make known their intentions of quitting the society. And another thing, they said, would urge them on to leave the place, which was, that they were convinced something diabolical had been done in the palace, previous to their becoming inhabitants of it. Father Gregory joined them in the same opinion, and said that the care of their souls had been the only inducement for him to continue among them so long as he had, and it was his most ardent wish, that, before he closed his

eyes

eyes for ever, he should have the satisfaction of seeing the whole of them restored to their country, friends, and connexions.

This point settled, they thought it proper, before they went to rest, to go and examine every part of the building, that they might be certain nothing was to be apprehended from fire. The four that kept watch requested four others to stay with them, as they could not get over their terrors; and, though men who had frequently braved almost every danger, yet they shrunk at the idea of again seeing the horrid sights they had that day witnessed. When they had examined every place, and found all safe, father Gregory, the captain, Fitzallan, and Joseph, went to rest—the remainder chose to sit up the night. The captain, before he retired, gave orders to be called at the least

alarm; father Gregory recommended them to the care of Heaven, and then left them.

When Fitzallan came to his apartment, he found Michael in a sound sleep. The captain accompanied him; for, as yet he had not found the way to his room, or from it, without a guide. They dicoursed a long time about what they had seen, and Fitzallan said, He wou'd be happy to know whether he should be obliged to go with him to Bononi.

"It will be impossible for me to say," answered the captain, "till the first part of the society returns, which will not be for some days, as they set off for Naples only this morning. They will bring orders for the community, and father Gregory. He is a member of the society at Bononi, and, I believe, a very

very good man. He appears in the greatest dangers always cool, collected and resigned. His mind seems unruffled by any adverse fate, and, by what I have seen of him, since I have been here, his whole intention is to make others as sensible of acting wrong as he is himself. He studies mankind with great accuracy, and plies his instructions according to the temper and habits of those to whom he directs his discourse. Those that are naturely virtuous, reverence and respect him. I know several of the community, who from his lessons have been brought to despise their way of life, and earnestly to wish for that period, when they shall be able to return with credit to their families. The disguise they wear, when they are out upon any expedition, totally precludes all apprehensions of being personally discovered; and, whatever money they get at the gaming

table, or other articles which they procure, when there is any public calamity, or in their different excursions, they are obliged by their oaths to render a just account of; and, after the necessary disbursements, the remainder (unless some particular bauble should be desired by an individual) goes to the public account, which is settled once a month. They have, I think, procured a great deal within the last six months, and, I believe, when the year is up, and they go to Bononi, it will be found there is enough to settle a great many of the community. But, in this society, as well as in all others, there are men, who, notwithstanding they have had very liberal educations, and are by birth gentlemen, yet are so much addicted to vice and a licentious way of life, that all reasoning, and even the dread of punishment hereafter, cannot wean them from pursuits that

that seem interwoven with their natures. Such a one was Owen.—

"At the mention of his name, Fitzallan hove a sigh. "And that man," said he, "was the husband of my sister!"

"That you must forget," said the captain, "and endeavour to erase him from your mind. He is now too sensible how dearly the gratification of every vice is purchased. I have been informed by father Gregory that there are two sets of members in the society at Benoni; the elders of one can command the services of celestial spirits, inhabitants of the air; the other set, those of the infernal regions. They both follow in all things the doctrines of Arbatel, Dee, and others, whose magical principles are well known, and I think their aphorisms have been, and are now, not only believed, but followed

lowed by even princes. By what I can learn from father Gregory, I shall be at liberty to make my election into either of those parties, and so will you, if they oblige you to become a member. I think I can not be at a loss to guess which you will embrace, nor need I tell you which I shall make choice of. "As I told you, I have promised to be there at the end of the twelvemonth; but what to make of that clause which enjoins each individual to present themselves, dead or alive, I know not; it is beyond my comprehension. I cannot be brought to believe they have power over departed spirits, so as to oblige them to obey their commands; and yet, I know not how to doubt father Gregory, who strongly asserts the truth of it, saying that Every thing is to be obtained, if we religiously obey the rules laid down in the aphorism. A specimen of one I can shew you, in his

his own hand writing, which he gave me about a month since, when we happened to have some serious discourse upon the subject. It is from an Isagoge of Arbatel's, but I believe this is but part of it; the beginning I have not got—I think I returned it him; but you shall hear what I have now with me."

The captain opened his pocket book and read from a paper, "That even, as "there is one God, from whence is all "good, and one sin, to wit, Disobedi- "ence against the will of the comman- "ding God, from whence comes all "evil, so that the fear of God is the "beginning of all wisdom, and the "profit of all magic. For, obedience "to the will of God followeth the fear "of God, and after this, followeth the "practice of God, and of the Holy "Spirit, and the ministry of the holy "angels,

" angels, and all good things out of the
" inexhaustible treasures of God. But
" unprofitable and damnable magic ari-
" seth from this: when we lose the
" fear of God out of our hearts, and
" suffer sin to reign in us there, the
" Prince of this world, the God of this
" world beginneth and setteth up his
" kingdom, instead of holy things, in
" such as he findeth profitable for his
" kingdom there. Even as the spider
" taketh the fly which falleth into his
" web, so Satan spreadeth abroad his
" nets, and taketh man with the snares
" of covetousness, until he sucketh him
" and draweth him to eternal fire.—
" These he cherisheth and advanceth
" on high, that their fall may be the
" greater. Apply thine eyes to the
" sacred and profane histories, and to
" those things which thou seest daily
" to be done in the world, and thou
" shalt find all things full of magic,
" according

" according to a two-fold science, good
" and evil; which, that they may be
" the better discerned, we will put this
" division and subdivision, for the con-
" clusion of these Isagoges, wherein
" every one may contemplate what is
" to be followed, and what to be avoid-
" ed; and how far it is to be laboured
" for by every one, to a competent end
" of life and living.

SCIENCES.

GOOD.

Theosophy. { Knowledge of the word of God, and ruling one's life according to the word of God.—Knowledge of the Government of God by angels, which the scripture calleth watchmen; and to understand the mystery of angels.

Anthrosophy, given to man. { Knowledge of natural things.—Wisdom in human things.

EVIL.

EVIL.

Cacosophy. — Contempt of the word of God; and to live after the will of the Devil. —Ignorance of the government of God by angels.—To contemn the custody of angels, and that their companions are of the Devil.—Idolatry.—Atheism.

Cacodæmony — The knowledge of poisons, and to use them.—Wisdom in all evil arts, to the destruction of mankind; and to use them in contempt of God, and for the loss and destruction of man.

"This is but a remnant," said the captain, "of what I have before seen; however, it is enough to give you an idea of the whole of what they profess; but there is a great deal for you to be made acquainted with, and, to tell you the truth, I am led to think, that the dreadful scenes we have this day witnessed were certainly brought about by means of

of those agents, to serve some wise and good purpose, which, however, is not at present to be made known to us. I really began to think, when the demons surrounded us in the pavilion, that we were all in the power of the Devil, having done something to offend his infernal worship. For the first time in my life I felt fear; though I am not by nature a coward, yet the dreadful warfare of the elements absolutely unmanned me. I shall never think of the scene but with horror."

"Nor I," said Fitzallan, who had listened with the greatest attention to all the captain had said; "I am convinced that all we saw was caused by some supernatural agency; but, whether through the commands of Heaven, or the machinations of Hell, I know not. I must own I should like to be certain, and, if my becoming a member

ber at Bononi with you could clear up my doubts, I should not hesitate one moment to be so. How long will it be before you will be obliged to return?"

"Only a few weeks," said the captain; "I should not have thought it so near, had not this affair of to-day reminded me of it. Several of this community are members; indeed, I believe the whole of them; but I am ignorant of a great many particulars, as it requires three years to be novices. At the expiration of the first year, you make your election, and at the end of the third, are allowed to act. Each candidate delivers in his pretentions to either of the parties he makes choice of, either good or bad. If good, he must produce vouchers for all the services he has done, for the three years he has been initiating. If his conduct is approved, and he is thought worthy, he

is invested with power to counteract, in conjunction with those spirits he can command, the diabolical schemes of the opposite party; so that, though members of one community, they are in continual warfare with each other; and those that can bring the most votaries at the end of the year, are allowed the supremacy for the one ensuing. I most earnestly hope, that our side of the question will have it next year, and am more inclined to think so, as death has swept away several of the opposite members, two of which you know, Owen and St. Prie, and there are two others that were killed at Rome in a brothel. You must, therefore, prepare yourself to behold some disagreeable sights; but, I think, when a man is conscious of acting right, to the best of his abilities, he need not fear any thing. Our resolution may be staggered at first; but recollection will

will in a moment re-assume the man, and enable us stedfastly to behold objects, that a guilty conscience would always shrink from. This is not altogether my own doctrine, but that of father Gregory, whom I sincerely believe to be a very good man. He does not make any comments on the affair of the ruins—did not you observe that?"

"I did," said Fitzallan; "but thought his silence arose from the ignorance our companions were in, respecting it."

"True," said the captain, "but I believe he had other reasons. I would not have you drop any hints before Michael of this discourse; it is necessary that he should not be made acquainted with it."

Fitzallan promised, and they parted for

for the night. Edward could not sleep; a thousand thoughts crowded on his brain; he earnestly wished himself away, though, at the same moment, he was anxious to be acquainted with all he had heard respecting Bononi; but he saw there was no remedy, and he had conceived so strong an attachment to the captain, that he was certain he could not leave him there, without feeling the most lively regret. Another thing which reconciled him to his situation, was the recollection that it was impossible for any one to leave the community, without the concurrence of the whole, and he had pledged his faith to the captain not to abuse the confidence he had reposed in him. After a variety of distressing thoughts he fell a sleep.

The next morning, when fetched to breakfast, he found every thing had

remained perfectly tranquil during the night; and, though the company had kept the strictest watch, yet nothing had been seen or heard. Vashti was very ill, and a fever was apprehended. Michael was still in a profound sleep, from which they thought it best not to wake him. Father Gregory administered what was necessary, and Joseph, who had watched over her during the night, assured him that she was possessed with an idea, that she saw among the demons the figure of her mother; and all he could say to her could not persuade her out of it.

They were alarmed at this prepossession, as it might tend to destroy her reason. The father went to her, and found that what Joseph had said was true. She raved upon her unhappy mother, and said she was certain she was among the damned. The good man

tried

tried to reason with her, but reasoning was in vain, and all that he could do was to persuade her to take a composing draught, which lulled the senses into a kind of stupor. Her husband, who sincerely loved her, was nearly as bad as herself, from apprehensions of losing her; but, in a few hours, the poor fellow had the satisfaction of finding her composed, and he went to rest himself.

He had not long laid down, before he was sent for to the park entrance; a gentleman wanted him, the man said, whose turn it was to keep that gate. The captain thought it best not to have him disturbed, saying He would go himself to see who it was. He took Fitzallan with him, and went to the avenue; but what was his surprise and astonishment, when he beheld in the gentleman—his brother! He instantly ran to him, and embraced

him, with all the warmth of fraternal love. The brother seemed happy, beyond measure, to see him again, and informed him he had been at the palace the morning before he had got leave of the porter to see the ruins, and came up to them just at the moment a large part fell in. He saw no one but a woman, of whom he had asked Whether any one was hurt; but she appeared to be ignorant of any accident happening, and, from her he had enquired after him; but she said The captain was from home, and then passed on, and he was obliged to return without being able to see or get any intelligence respecting him.

The captain introduced Fitzallan, and they all three returned to the palace. His brother had no servant with him. When they ascended to the portico, the count stopped to view the stately

stately ruins. He was struck with admiration at the scene, but appeared affected at its mouldering appearance. They descended to the great room, where he was introduced to all the community then present, as well as to father Gregory. He then informed the captain That he had received a letter from the Prince of Bononi, which had induced him to come there, to see his brother on some business relative to their family affairs.

Soon after, the father, Fitzallan, and the rest of the company, left them, and went to visit Michael, whom they found awake and tolerably sensible. He wished to see his master; they assured him he was safe, and would be with him soon; but, at present, he was preparing something for him to take. Edward advanced towards him; he had stopped, in order to bring it from fur-

ther Gregory's apartment. The poor fellow was overjoyed to see him in safety; he talked in an incoherent manner of what had passed; but the seeing him near him seemed to have the effect of a talisman. They agreed to continue with him, as he was not fit to get up; and they feared, if his master left him, he would relapse again into his fears.

When the captain was alone with his brother, he expressed a wish to know by what means he had found out his place of residence, and what could induce him to venture there, unless he meant to become a member of the society. "That I will tell you," said the count. "You may remember the day I left home; but it is necessary you should know my reasons, though perhaps you are acquainted with them."

The captain said No, he was not: he had only been led to conjecture. "Then I will tell you," said he.

"You knew my attachment to Mrs. Brisac. Before I left Nice, I made several attempts to inform her of my passion; but every endeavour proved abortive, and I gave up the pursuit, fully determined, as soon as I came of age, to make such offers to her and her father, as I vainly thought would not fail of being accepted. In this determination I continued, till the letter reached our preceptor from Mr Dainville, stating that his daughter had obtained a completion of her divorce.—The news drove me beside myself.—One moment I was in raptures; the next I dreaded every thing from a rival. She was now at full liberty to make another choice. I had some short time to pass before I was of a

I had to return to my father, and the doctor's invincible scruples to combat with. Every thing, I thought, conspired against me. I conceived it best to throw off all disguise, and inform him of my love. You know the arguments he made use of, to correct what he termed my folly; but all opposition was vain, I was deaf to every thing, and finding that in him I could not obtain an advocate, I was determined to become my own.

"The letter that called us so unexpectedly home obliged me to have recourse to writing. I lost no time in declaring myself to Mr. Dainville, and requested his good offices for me with his daughter. To mention what offers I made would be superfluous; let it suffice to say they were such, that no one besides those to whom they were addressed would have rejected. I wrote likewise

likewise a short note to Mrs Brisac, congratulating her on her emancipation; gently hinted at the letter I had sent her father, and earnestly entreated she would honor me with a few lines in return. Those letters I sent express; answers to which, I did not receive till after my arrival at home.

"I will not relate what I suffered, when I found my hopes effectually crushed. My offers were rejected, but I had the satisfaction to learn that it arose not from any preference given to a rival, but a determination in Mrs. Brisac never to marry again. I read them over and over a thousand times, and the more I read, the more I admired the greatness of their souls, who could reject such offers as my warm imagination had suggested. Not satisfied with this answer, I was determined, as soon as my father was a little

reconciled to his loss, and I could with propriety leave him, to quit home, and altogether reside near the dwelling of Mrs. Brisac. This plan was no sooner formed, than I resolved to adhere to it; but, while I was waiting for the hour, when I could put it in practice, my father made the proposal of settling me.

"You know the result of that conversation, and what followed. As soon as I got to my room, I called a council with Le Brun how I should act. He advised me to collect what money I could immediately command, to give out I was ill, and he would take care no one should come into my room, whilst I set about packing up my papers, jewels, and whatever I should choose to take with me. You know the time we took to do this.

"As soon as every thing was ready, he

he contrived to get my luggage out of the house. We set off immediately, and arrived, without any obstacle, at Paris, where I was led to hope I should meet Mr. Dainville; but in this I was disappointed. I left that place directly for Nice, but had not gone far on my route, before I learnt by accident that they were at Turin. I reached it and was not long before I had the happiness of paying my respects to them. In addition to their family, I met young Dainville and his wife, a very amiable woman. They had arrived from the East Indies about a fortnight. In a few days after this, arrived Mrs. Brisac's sister, and her husband, a very worthy couple. I dined with the whole party twice; but, as I had received an absolute denial to all my hopes, I was there only on the footing of a friend. Still I had the felicity of being near Mrs. Brisac, and I found, if I was not com-

 pletely

pletely happy, I at least enjoyed a tranquillity I had never felt before.

"Oh Frederic! how very unlike the pleasures I foolishly thought I enjoyed with Madame De Fleury! When I recalled the scenes at Paris, and contrasted them with those I was then engaged in, I cursed my folly and looked upon it as a blank in my life, which I anxiously wished to erase from my mind.

"I should have continued in this state, had not a letter arrived from the doctor, stating my flight and my father's intentions of pursuing me. Mr. Dainville, with all that delicacy which marks his character, informed me of the contents, saying he should not make any of his family acquainted with it, and he would advise me, by all means, to discontinue my visits, as it would

would give pain to him and his daughter, should any disagreeable circumstances arise, after the arrival of my father. He said he thought I had seen enough of Mrs. Brisac now, to be convinced that her intentions were fixed, never to enter into a second marriage. 'You have heard her discourse upon the subject, and I am certain your good sense will point out to you the necessity there is of relinquishing our society. Believe me, when I assure you, that nothing can give me more pain, than the thought of not seeing you daily amongst us.'

"He used a number of arguments to bring me over to his way of thinking, and, at last, succeeded in shewing me the necessity there was for my complying with his advice. I consented, and that evening, under a pretence of urgent business a considerable distance

distance from Turin, took my leave. I bore up very well, till I quitted Mrs. Brisac; but, when she expressed a wish that she might see me again soon, I was obliged to break from her abruptly, and leave the house.

"I returned to my apartments in a state of madness; but Le Brun again came in as an auxiliary, and persuaded me not to leave Turin, but to assume a disguise, and continue near, to watch the motions of my father, if he came there; and, if he did not, as soon as I knew where he was, I might occasionally visit the family again. This scheme fixed, I immediately put it in execution the more readily, as I had observed the letters which Mr. Dainville had received from the doctor were not directed for him at Turin, but Nice, and they had been sent after him, and that by a very roundabout way, as his correspondent

respondent at Nice did not know exactly where to direct him. Le Brun informed the people of the hotel of my departure, but said the luggage would be left there, as it was uncertain when we should return, and the apartments would be retained. I then changed my dress, and went to a short distance from the house of Mr. Dainville; passed for a Frenchman, and there waited in anxious expectation the arrival of my father and you. I caused some one to be placed at all the different hotels, where I thought you might take up your abode, with a full description of my father, yourself and the doctor.

"I had been about a fortnight in my new habitation, when I was informed by Le Brun of your being come.—From that time, he was constantly watching all your motions. He found

you

you were ignorant of Mr. Dainville's place of residence, and augured much from that. I was led to hope, that, tired at last of searching for me, and despairing of finding Mr. Dainville, you would soon take your departure for some other place; but, one morning, Le Brun entered my room, saying all my hopes were vanished, for he had seen you get out of Mr. Dainville's carriage, and, soon after, some of the family had returned with you to the hotel, where my father was. No one can tell the miseries I endured, when I was informed that you were there daily, and it was supposed my father meant to stay some time at Turin. By means of a servant in the house, we soon found that my father was almost constantly there, and at last, to drive me mad indeed, I was told that he had made proposals to Mrs. B; that you were confined to your bed, in a high fever, and

in

in your ravings, you had discovered as great an attachment to Mrs. Brisac as myself. I knew your tortures, Frederic, by what I myself felt. I pitied, and would have consoled you if I durst, but that I could not, and, in a few days, I was as ill as you.

"When I recovered, which was not for some weeks after, I found that you had left my father abruptly and gone, no one knew were, and he was by this sudden stroke confined to his bed. I dreaded to hear Le Brun's voice, lest he should say Mrs. Brisac is the wife of your father. At length, weary of this suspense, I ventured to ask Whether he had heard how my father was, and if Mrs. B. was Countess of Krauntzie.—'Your father,' said he, 'is still very ill, and there is not yet any Countess Krauntzie.' 'Not yet,' said I, 'for Heaven's sake what dost thou mean?' 'Is it deter-

determined that she is to be my mother-in-law?' 'I don't know,' said he; 'the count is still ill, at his hotel, and Mrs. B. and all the family frequently visit him; but nothing is known. What is designed in future I cannot tell; but, by being so very attentive, I should suppose that it is designed to take place, when the count is recovered.' 'Then I will not stay to see it,' said I, and instantly gave directions for my departure. Ill as I was, nothing that the poor fellow could say would induce me to continue in Turin.

"I set off immediately for Rome, and in dissipation sought to dronw all thoughts of the blessing I had lost, fully determined never more to enter any place where my father was known to be. I got whatever money I wanted, from a merchant, to whom I gave draughts on my steward. The jubilee commen-

commenced; I entered into all companies of gentlemen, who were disposed to spend it in my way. I drank incessantly; the company of ladies I studiously avoided, and sought in wine and the gaming table an alleviation of my uneasiness. Among a set of riotous young men and sharpers, I lost a considerable sum; but from this destructive vice, I was drawn by the interposition of my better angel.

"One day, I had left the room we had been in, where I had betted high, and lost a considerable sum, to get something I wanted, when I was met by a gentleman, who asked me to walk with him into another room; he had something particular to say to me. He went on—I followed. He shut the door, and said: 'You have lost considerably at play, sir: I have been an unconcerned spectator, and was very

sorry

sorry to see you stript as you were. Do you know those with whom you have played?' 'Not particularly,' said I—'Do you think them gentlemen? 'Yes'—'Then stop here with me, and you will be convinced of the contrary; but I must get you to promise that you touch not a card again, if you are convinced of their real characters.' 'Tis done,' said I, 'and I pledge my honor to abide by it.'

"As I said this, I heard a loud laugh in an adjoining room; several people seemed to enter, and I instantly recognized the voices of my successful antagonists. Their discourse turned on their success, and, from the whole of it, I learnt they had won from myself, and a young Neapolitan nobleman, ten thousand pounds; and then went on to explain to each other in what manner they had duped us. 'Are you satisfied

satisfied?' asked the gentleman. 'I am,' said I, 'and here religiously swear to abide by the promise I have made you; and earnestly entreat, that you will permit me to consider you as my sincerest friend.' 'You have that permission,' said he, 'and, if it is in my power to serve you, during your stay at Rome, I shall be happy to do it. I was once young and volatile as yourself, and, like you, was the dupe of sharpers. I suffered severely for my folly, and have made it a practice, for some years, to warn every young man I see plunging into that folly, which destroyed my peace and hopes for ever in this world,—but, in the next, I hope for happiness.'

"There was something in this gentleman's conversation, that charmed one, and I ventured to ask him several questions. He told me, he had given

the

the same warning to the young gentleman, who had been my companion, but he heeded it not. He meant to have brought him to the room we were in, that he might have been convinced as I was; but he left the house too abruptly. He was himself well acquainted with every part of the building, and said, He knew the room they always came to, after they had stripped any novice. I learnt from his discourse, that he was a Roman by birth, of a noble family; but had dissipated his patrimony, at an early period. He was at last made sensible of his errors, but too late to retrieve his fortune. He lost the object of his tenderest wishes, by death, and, soon after this, an uncle died, and, by that circumstance, he was again reinstated in the rank he was born to. He had invariably adhered to his first resolutions, made in adversity, of never again playing for any sum

sum whatever; and those who had listened to his advice had never forgot that it saved them from ruin. 'I shall be happy', said he, 'to rank you among the number of young men, who, convinced of their weakness, can find pleasure in the company of an old man.'

"I assured him, I would lose no opportunity of paying my respects, and profiting by his generous advice. We parted, and from that hour, I became a constant inmate of his house. I imparted to him the situation of my heart and the determination I had made, never to return to my native home. He reasoned me into calmness; I mixed in company, but they were rational beings, and I conversed with ladies, if their conversation bore the least affinity to Mrs. Brisac's.

"I thought I saw you, one night, at

at a masquerade, in the company of the Prince of Bononi; but, mistaking you at first for a gentleman I did not like, I avoided you, and sought my friend. I could not find him. I wanted to ascertain who you were. When I returned, you were gone, and, in spite of all my endeavours, I could not discover you afterwards.

"I continued at Rome some time, when my friend had business that called him to Florence. He asked me to accompany him; I did, and, by accident, discovered you had been there, and had likewise spent some time at Bononi. I was then convinced that you were the person I saw at Rome. I caused several enquiries to be made at the palace; the only intelligence I could gain, was, that you had been near three months there; but, since your departure from Rome, you had not returned.

returned. I enquired for you at all the families that held any correspondence with the prince, but no one could give me the least account.

"My friend was indefatigable in the search; but, like myself, was unsuccessful, till about two months ago, when he happened to meet a father of the order of mendicants, whom he had known some years before, but had not seen for a long while. In the course of their conversation, he happened to mention the prince. My friend then spoke of you, and asked him If he had ever seen you at Bononi. He answered, He had, and, if it would give him any satisfaction, to know where you then resided, he would inform him. Nothing, he said, could give him more pleasure; as it would make a very particular friend of his, happy. He then slightly hinted to the father, my situation; and what

greatly surprised him, was, that the father seemed perfectly acquainted with every circumstance, and could tell him more of our affairs, than he knew himself. However he told him where I might gain intelligence of you. I was to enquire for Captain Krauntzic, at this palace, and there I should be informed of your residence.

"I hastened from Florence, and came here; my friend accompanied me, and is now at a short distance from the park, at the house of a captain of a galley, who gave us a strange account of this place, and its inhabitants, whom he magnified to a thousand men, and that they all belonged to the prince Bononi, who, he said, kept them to take to the war with him, if he should be called upon. We asked, how often they were seen—'Hardly ever,' said he, 'except once, now and then; for, they have a galley

galley and boats of their own; and, as they never talk to any body in the island so nobody talks to them. They are strange men,' added he, 'altogether, and there is but one woman in the palace, and she was born there, I believe, and so was her husband, who is the man that takes care of the ground. What is done with the produce, nobody knows, but I suppose the gentlemen soldiers who live there do what they like with it. The woman that lives there is a good sort of a plain creature, but is always melancholy. Her father and mother died there, they say, and she has never been happy since.

"'From this man's discourse, we could not suppose you were here, especially as he said he had never seen any gentleman, that answered the description we gave of you. However, I was resolved to seek, and, under a pretence

of looking at the ruins of the palace, I came here yesterday; but, not seeing any one, the tottering situation of the fabric deterred me from going in, lest something or other should fall about my ears. As I was about to return, I heard a crash, as if some material part of the building had fallen in—soon after I saw the woman; from her I enquired Whether any person was hurt; but she gave me the answer I told you of, and, finding you were from home, I thought it best to return to my friend, and come again to day, when I had the happiness of finding you."

The captain thanked his brother for his relation, and, in as few words as possible, gave him an account of what had passed since he saw him last: he briefly informed him of the nature of the community, and the necessity there would

would be of his keeping his being there a secret from his friend. He told him of the engagements he was under to return to Bononi, and, on that account, it would be impossible for him to quit the society, till after that period, when he hoped he should be at liberty to leave them. He assured him, that, as soon as he had fulfilled his engagements with the community, he would return to him; not that he could ever hope for any happiness, but in the friendship of himself and Fitzallan. His brother tried to persuade him; but at last, finding all arguments vain, he forbore to press him, saying He would rest satisfied that he had reasons for his stay.

They then settled a mode of correspondence, and it was agreed that, till they met again, they should inform each other, wherever they might be obliged

"This," said he, "convinces me that the fury of it was exhausted in the park, and on the building, and confirms what I have before suggested, that it was meant as a warning for us to think of settling in life, and not live in the manner we do."

Some more discourse to the same effect passed, when the captain asked How Vashti was? The father said, that by force of the opiate she was perfectly tranquil, as was Michael, who, as long as he saw his master there, was content. They went down again to the great room, when it was agreed that all those who had sat up the preceding night, should go to bed, and the captain, Fitzallan and father Gregory, should stay up in their stead. This settled, they went to bed, though it was evident, in fear, lest the storm should return in the night.

When

When they were gone, a long and interesting conversation took place between the father, the captain and Fitzallan, respecting the agency of spirits, and the power they were supposed to have over the actions of man. The father, as a support of his hypothesis, quoted St. Augustin, Plutarch, Livy, Damasus, Tyrus, Symplicius, St. Martin, St. Agathius, Iamblichus, St. Julian, Ptolemy, and many others, both ancient and modern, who had written on the subject, all tending to prove the reality of his assertions, that there are spirits, who have power to act as good and bad agents.

"Of the former, I will maintain," said he, "from the uncontroverted system of Arbatel, that man may, by a strict adherence to the first principles of religion, as laid down by the word of God, acquire that knowledge that

will enable him to act himself, and call into action numberless spirits, that are by divine permission subject to them. For, what says Arbatel? "The greatest precept of magic is to know what every man ought to receive for his use from the assisting spirits, and what to refuse; which he may learn of the Psalmist—'Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? In keeping thy word, O Lord.' To keep the word of God, so that the evil one snatch it not out of the heart, is the chief precept of wisdom. It is lawful to admit of, and exercise, other suggestions, which are not contrary to the glory of God, and charity towards our neighbour; not enquiring from what spirit such suggestions proceed: but we ought to take heed that we are not too much busied about unnecessary things, according to the admonition of Christ. 'Martha, Martha, thou art troubled about many things, but

but Mary hath chosen the better part, which shall not be taken from her.'

"Therefore, let us always have regard unto the saying of Christ. 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.' All other *things*, that is, *all things*, which are due to the mortal microcosm, as food, raiment, and the necessary arts of this life.—There is nothing so much becometh a man, as constancy in his words and deeds; and, when the like rejoiceth in the like, there are none more happy than such, because the holy angels are conversant about such and possess the custody of them. On the contrary, men that are inconstant, are lighter than nothing. Even as every one governeth himself, so he alloreth unto himself spirits of his nature and condition. But one very truly adviseth,

that no man should carry himself beyond his own calling, lest he should draw unto himself some malignant spirit from the utmost parts of the earth, by whom he shall be infatuated and deceived, or brought to final destruction. This precept appeareth most plainly; for, Midas, when he would convert all things into gold, drew up such a spirit unto himself, which was able to perform this; and, being deceived by him, he had been brought to death by famine, if his foolishness had not been corrected by the mercy of God.

"The same thing happened to a certain woman, at Frankfort on the Oder, in our times. Would that men would diligently weigh this precept, and not account the histories of Midas and the like for fables. They would be much more diligent in moderating their thoughts and affections: neither would they

they be so perpetually vexed with the spirits of the golden mountains of Utopia. There we ought most diligently to observe that such presumption should be cast out of the mind by the word of God. Neither let them have any habit to the idle mind, that is empty of the divine word. He that is faithfully conversant in his vocation, shall have the spirits also constant companions of his desires, who will successfully supply him in all things. But, if he have any knowledge in magic, they will not be unwilling to shew him, and to serve him in those several mysteries unto which they are addicted; the good spirits in good things unto salvation; the evil spirits in every evil thing unto destruction. "Examples are not wanted in history of the whole world, and do daily happen in the world. Theodosius, before

fore the victory of Arbogantus, is an example of the good; Brutus, before he was slain, was an example of the evil spirits, when he was so persecuted of the spirit of Cæsar, and exposed to punishment, that he slew himself, who had slain his own father and the father of his country.

"All magic is a relation of spirits of that kind; so that the nine muses are called in Hesiod the ninth magic, as he manifestly testifieth of himself in his theogony. In Homer, the genius of Ulysses; in Psigiogagia, Hermes. God revealeth himself to Moses in the bush. The three wise men who came to seek Christ at Jerusalem were led by the angel of the Lord. The angels of the Lord directed Daniel. Therefore, there is nothing whereof any one may glory; for, it is not unto him that willeth, nor unto him that runneth, but to whom God

God will have mercy. From hence springeth all magic, and thither again it will revolve, whether it be good or evil.

"In this manner, Tages, the first teacher of magic, at Rome, gushed out of the earth. Diana at Ephesus shewed her worship, as if it had ben sent from Heaven, as also Apollo, and all the religion of the heathens is taken from the same spirits. Neither are the opinions of the Saducees human inventions. Whosoever desireth familiarly to have a conversation with spirits, let him keep himself from all enormous sins, and diligently pray to the most high God, to be his keeper, and he shall break through all the snares and impediments of the Devil; and let him apply himself to the service of God, and he will give him an increase in wisdom. All things are possible to them that

that believe, and are willing to receive them. But to the incredulous and unwilling, all things are impossible. There is no greater hindrance than a wavering mind, levity, inconstancy, foolish babbling, drunkenness, lust, and disobedience to the word of God. A magician therefore ought to be a man that is godly, honest, constant in his words and deeds, having a firm faith towards God, prudent and covetous of nothing but wisdom, about divine things.'—

"Thus far Arbatel To convince you further, and to confirm what Arbatel has set forth, we need only have recourse to Swedenborg, that great mystic writer, whose productions have for these last twenty years made much noise in the speculative world. Look to that part of his life, written by himself, where he says,—'The Lord himself hath called me, who was graciously pleased

pleased to manifest himself to me, his unworthy servant, in a personal appearance, in the year one thousand seven hundred and forty three, to open in me a sight of the spiritual world, and to enable me to converse with spirits and angels; and this privilege has continued with me to this day. From that time, I began to print and publish various unknown arcana, that have been either seen by me or revealed to me, concerning Heaven and Hell, the state of men after death, the spiritual sense of the scriptures, and many other important truths, tending to salvation and true wisdom; and that mankind might receive benefit from those communications, was the only motive which has induced me, at different times, to leave my home, to visit other countries.—As to this world's wealth, I have what is sufficient, and more I neither seek nor wish for.'—

"Such

"Such," said father Gregory, "is the doctrine I would wish you to believe, being convinced of the truth of it myself; and I think, when you have past your probationary years, you will be as much convinced as I am, that the violent confusion of the elements, which we experienced yesterday, was brought about by means of those inhabitants of the air. I am persuaded that our search was not agreeable to those spirits, and for some wise and good purpose, the demons were raised to alarm us, and to point out, though in an indirect way, the wickedness of living in a society, whose support is rapine and whose riches are plunder. I see you are surprised to hear me talk thus, since I must have made this place my choice to reside in; but, if you knew the disastrous events of my life, you would not wonder at my staying here.

But

But you will probably say, what disastrous events can have happened to a man, whose profession precludes him from taking any active part in life, and prevents him from experiencing the vicissitudes of it. Alas! that has not been my case; I have experienced the most distressing changes; my heart has been wrung with agony, and my body lacerated with stripes. I have sunk unpitied beneath the galling yoke of bondage and mental derangement, while an unfeeling barbarian has stood over me with thongs, to urge me to labour I was unable to execute."

The tears started into his eyes; he lifted them to heaven, and softly ejaculated a prayer of resignation to the will of his creator. "If it would not awaken too keenly a remembrance of your sorrows,' said Fitzallan, 'I would venture to beg a relation of your misfortunes."

"I will give it you," answered he; "my heart is now nearly steeled against all remembrance, though a tear will sometimes start involuntary, but I strike it off, and strive to think no more.

"I am a native of Cambray, and the first morning of my birth was that when the Duke of Marlborough, with his victorious troops, entered that city. My father was one of the most considerable men in it, and my birth being made known to the duke, he signified his intentions of being one of my godfathers, as I was born a subject to his sovereign. This honor was joyfully accepted by my parents, and, as I grew up, I received instructions suitable to my future expectations.

"After having attained the first rudiments of the classics, I was sent to England to perfect my education, which

which I acquired with such facility, that, at the age of sixteen, I was perfect master of nine different languages, including Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, besides being well versed in mathematics, geography, natural philosophy, and astronomy, with all the lighter accomplishments of dancing, fencing, drawing, and the military exercise. I took my degrees at college, and remained in England till I was recalled by my father. The duke had promised him great things respecting me; but his promises, I believe, were no sooner made, than forgotten. My father, offended at the neglect of his grace, would not permit me to continue near him; I was of course obliged to leave England. I returned, and, in about a year after, I lost my father.

"I was consigned to the care of a gentleman, who had been the particu-

lar

lar friend of my father from their infancy. He was a widower, with two daughters. The eldest was about twenty—the other fifteen; neither of them handsome, but both very agreeable in their persons and manners. My mother had been dead about five years, and I had one year and a half before I came of age; and, as my education was completed, my guardian made me an offer of residing with him till that period arrived.

"I was fond of books to an excess, and literally dedicated the whole of my time to them. I met the ladies at table, but scarcely remembered they were present. At last, I was roused from my insensibility, by my guardian's one day hastily entering my room, and exclaiming, 'Ah! Monsieur Marlbro', my eldest daughter'—— 'What of your daughter, sir?' said I. 'She is dying!'

dying!' exclaimed he. 'My God!' said I, and started up,—'where? how? when? what?' 'Come with me,' said he. He went—I followed—to his daughter's room. She was on the bed, in convulsions. I ran to her, and raised her up. 'For the Almighty's sake,' said I, 'send for the faculty. How came she in this condition?' 'I know not,' said he; 'I have sent for Doctor T.—he will be here in a minute.'

"'The doctor entered; the whole house was in the greatest confusion. He took hold of her hand; felt her pulse, asked several questions, and, at last, declared she was poisoned. We stared with amazement. 'Good God!' said her father, 'what do you mean?' 'There is no time to be lost,' said the doctor, and hurried out of the house, but soon returned with a medicine, which

which he forcibly poured down her throat. In a few minutes, she was seized with a violent reaching, and that instantly convinced him of the truth; but, whether it had been given her, or she had taken it herself, was a doubt he could not solve.

"I asked for Genevieve, her sister —She was from home; had been absent all day; but they could not tell to what part of the city she was gone. The servants were interrogated respecting what she had that morning drank; but none could give the least account, as she had not had any thing brought to her since breakfast. The doctor succeeded in his applications; the convulsions ceased, and, in a short time, she became composed. We all left the apartment; the doctor said He would not advise to have her disturbed; she should remain quiet, but

by

by no means be left alone for a moment, lest the fits should return.

"Her father appeared like one bereft of his reason. He called on his daughter in the most pathetic manner, raved, and exclaimed He was lost for ever, if she should die, and could not be persuaded but that she had procured it herself. I tried to reason with him, but reasoning was vain; the more I talked to him, the more he seemed distressed.

"At last, Genevieve, which was the youngest daughter's name, returned. She was examined inthe strictest manner, respecting her sister; but she appeared to be more ignorant than any one. She had left her sister, she said, in her apartment, with her maid. She had excused herself from going out, by saying She had letters to write, and,

in consequence, Genevieve went out alone. Mademoiselle's maid was again examined; but she could throw no light upon the transaction, and we still remained in ignorance of the cause.

"Several days elapsed, before the doctor, or any one, would venture to say any thing to her on the subject. At last, Genevieve ventured to ask her, and succeeded in getting her to acknowledge That she had procured the poison herself, and her reason for doing it arose from a violent attachment she had conceived for me, and that, in despair of gaining my affections, she had taken the resolution of destroying herself, and for that purpose had procured the poison, which she had drank; but, as soon as she began to feel its effects, she had repented, and hastened to her father's room, to inform him what she had done; but, before

before she could pronounce a word, she felt the convulsions seize her, and, in them, fell at the feet of her father.

"Genevieve was shocked, beyond measure, at the relation. She reasoned with her on the folly and wickedness of such a deed, and brought her, at last, to be sensible of those punishments, that ever await a suicide. She burst into tears, acknowledged her fault, and earnestly intreated she would implore her father's pardon, and assure him she was sensible of her errors, and begged she would not make me acquainted with it. But this last Genevieve would not promise. She left her, and came immediately to her father. I was with him. She related to us all that had passed between them.

"My surprise even exceeded her father's. Though he felt for his child,

yet he condemned her folly, and said She should immediately prepare for a convent; but this I strongly opposed, saying, I was in hopes time would cure her of her attachment. That, her father said, was impossible; the passion of girls gathered strength from opposition, and he could never hope to see her my wife. 'And why not,' said I, 'if you do not object to it?'

"I spoke this without reflecting on what I said. I had never once considered the person of Mademoiselle La Touche. 'She may be handsome,' said I to myself; 'I have been told she is amiable; and, as I am expected to marry, she will probably make me as good a wife as any other.' I had never felt what it was to love. I knew not the pangs unhappy lovers feel, and, of course, was ignorant of those pleasures which spring from mutual attachment.

tachment. My books had been my mistress, and I never had formed a thought of enjoying greater happiness. But this circumstance had opened a new field for study, widely different from the tracts I had hitherto pursued, and led my ideas into a perfectly new channel. I thought love must be a strange and ungovernable passion, if it could lead people to act so extravagantly, and to run the risque of losing everlasting happiness. I felt a new sensation rising in my bosom. I longed to give ease to the heart of Miss La Touche. Humanity urged me to this, and I foolishly set it down for love. The lady's fortune was much beneath what I had a right to expect; but that, I thought, was a paultry consideration, and I had read that the goods of fortune were but little regarded by philosophers—and to be as like one as I possibly could, had ever

been the first object of my ambition. Here then I thought opened a field, that would at once stamp me one in the eyes of those who had souls superior to the narrow reasonings of the world. 'I will be her husband,' said I, 'if it will contribute to her peace.'

"Her father started; Genevieve looked earnestly in my face, as if to say; for God's sake, say that over again, I really don't understand you. Her father seemed to express the same; I read their thoughts. 'I will be Miss La Touche's husband,' said I, address- myself to him, 'if it meets your robation. I am ignorant of the forms of courtship, and as your daughter has plainly evinced her attachment for me, I think there need not be any idle nonsense of that sort.'

'You have not considered,' said my guardian,

guardian, 'what you offer. Do you know that I can give my daughter but very little, and your fortune is large enough, to command one very considerable?' 'It may so,' I replied; 'but, according to my mode of reasoning, happiness does not consist in riches, but in the comforts of domestic life.' 'True,' said he; 'that is what a man of a narrow confined income might say with propriety; but those that have been blessed with a more liberal quantity of the goods of the world, ought to live in a sphere of life suitable to those liberal gifts; and, as there are but few to whom Dame Fortune grants her favors, it is necessary those [illegible] should make a figure in the world, that the community may be benefited by a distribution of their wealth.'

'Very probably, sir,' said I; 'all this is very good doctrine to the world-

ly wise, and to those who place happiness in riches. That does not happen to be my case; I have never lived, as they called it, in the great world; but I have seen enough of its fooleries to despise them. I have no idea of keeping a fine house, a fine horse, a fine coach, or a parcel of idle rascals, that might be more properly employed in serving the state, merely because I have got a fortune; and to be thought a wise man, I must at once become as great a fool as my neighbours, and endeavour with them to try which can be ruined first, because it is the fashion to cut a figure, and run in debt to all my tradesmen as much as I possibly can, with a full assurance that I shall never pay them. No, sir; I like none of this; I will marry your daughter, and live as I like, that is, in rational obscurity, and let the follies of the world be pursued by those, who have

have not faculties to relish more sublime pleasures. Go to your sister, Genevieve,' said I, 'and tell her, if she can gain her father's consent, I am ready to become her husband.'

'Lord! sir,' said the dear girl, 'I know not how to carry such a message to my sister. Surely you have not enough considered it, and should I go and tell her this, and you repent it afterwards, the consequence would be worse than what has appeared already; for, in the train of thinking she now is in, I have not the least doubt but she will be able to conquer her attachment.' 'I would not have her conquer it,' said I; 'if I were to consider of it for a month, I should have just the same sentiments; therefore, sir, as I cannot bear to keep any one in pain, when it is in my power to relieve them, I beg you will oblige me so far as to see your

daughter yourself, since Genevieve will not, and let her know what my intentions are.'

"He hesitated, endeavoured to persuade me, but persuasions were vain. Seeing me determined, he acquiesced, and, not to trouble you with a detail of particulars, in a short time, I became the husband of Miss La Touche. I thought myself the happiest being in existence. I had known no bliss till then. I found her mind stored with knowledge. Her person, though not so strikingly beautiful, as the poets feign their nymphs, yet she had enough to excite the tenderest love; at least, I thought so, and felt myself happy.

"I had some few months to come of my being of age; I waited with impatience for the time when I should be able to make a more ample provision

sion for my wife, and place her in a situation more consonant to my love. The time came; I removed to my own house, and the amiable Genevieve accompanied us for a short time. She was the life of our little society. Her father had been immersed in mercantile affairs for some years, which had perplexed him much; and, a short time after our removal, he called, and informed us, that we should be obliged to go to Tangiers, or lose a very considerable sum that was due to him from a merchant there, whose affairs were in such a deranged state, as called for the most active exertions. He said he would leave Genevieve under our protection, till his return, which he hoped would be soon. My wife was near lying in; she was very much distressed at parting from her father; but, after a few days, her uneasiness were off, and tranquillity again rested with us.

us. I was blessed, in a short time, with a son. This gave additional pleasure to us all, and we had likewise the satisfaction of hearing of the safe arrival of my father-in-law; but he said He feared his stay would be longer than he wished, as the whole of the perplexing business had devolved on him to settle.

"We continued in this state of happiness for many months, regularly hearing from Tangiers, when a proposal was made to me by a young gentleman, the second son of a man of family in the neighbourhood, for leave to address Genevieve. As we could not possibly have any objection to this offer, I gave my consent. Genevieve was all life and spirits, ever ready to impart pleasure to every one that interested themselves for her. As her heart was free, she received the addresses of this young man.

man. He was about two-and-twenty, tall, and pleasingly formed, of a cheerful disposition, and possessed a happy facility of turning every thing to the most advantage to his future hopes. Genevieve seemed to like him; but her volatile disposition prevented us from forming a just opinion of her sentiments.

"He had been upon an intimacy at our house near three months, when a letter arrived from my father-in-law, stating, That, in consequence of unremitted attention to the business he was engaged in, his health had suffered much, and he feared, unless he could relax in some measure, he should never live to return. He hinted a wish to see all his children once more; but, as that was, he said, impossible, he should try to reconcile himself to his fate. My wife, who loved her father tenderly,

was

was instantly alarmed. She would go to him, she said; and, if she could not prevail upon him to return with her, she would stay and close his eyes. I was surprised to hear her talk in this manner. 'Surely, my love,' said I, 'you know not what you talk of. You forget those tender ties that bind you to this country; you forget your child; you forget me; you forget Genevieve.' 'I do not, I do not forget either,' said she, bursting into tears; 'but I feel for my poor father, who has no one to administer the least comfort to him. Hitherto, he has been accustomed to receive the tenderest attention from his children; and, when he felt pain, they were ever ready to alleviate, and soothe it. Now, he is in a strange country, without a single friend to assist him.'

"Seeing her so much distressed, my mind

mind was on the rack to think what I could do. At last, a thought struck me, that, as I had nothing to confine me to my home, I might go with my wife and family to Tangiers, and continue there, till M. La Touche should be able to return; and I imagined, in all probability, I should be able to assist him in the arrangement of his affairs, and, by that means, accelerate his return to his native country. Flushed with this idea, I communicated it to my wife, who immediately came into my way of thinking. Genevieve was our next consideration. She entered into our views, and was happy in the thought she should again see her father. We therefore gave the necessary orders to prepare for our departure, and I set about settling my affairs; that, in case of accidents, my wife and child might be provided for. This was completed

in

in a few days, and, in about a fortnight, every thing was ready.

"At this crisis, an obstacle occurred, which we had not foreseen. This was the lover of Genevieve. He had been in Paris, with his family, near a week, when M. La Touche's letter arrived. We had written, to inform him of our intention of leaving Cambray, and our reasons for taking Genevieve. We did not receive any answer to this, and therefore, three days previous to our intended departure, we wrote again; but, before that letter reached Paris, he was at our house. He was distracted at the idea of our going. He used every argument an impassioned lover could urge, to prevail on me to alter our plan, or, at least, to defer it till he was become the husband of Genevieve. But, as this period depended on circumstances, I could not accede to it.

My

My wife was impatient to be gone; Genevieve no less so. His friends had not given their absolute consent to the union; his establishment was not fixed; and, without the full approbation of his family, I was certain my sister-in-law would not be his wife, as her fortune was not by any means despicable, and her family, though her father was involved in business, by no means inferior to his.

"These circumstances were pointed out to him; but, like all lovers, he found the means to obviate them all. He prayed, intreated that we would suspend our departure for a few days, whilst he should set off for Paris to his parents, and there plead the cause of love, that he might return and make Genevieve his wife before our departure. His heart being set upon going to her father, she would not hear of it;

it; but he found means to gain my consent to stay, while he went to his friends. If he succeeded, he was to return within such a limited time; if not, we were to proceed without seeing him.

"We stayed, under the greatest anxiety, Genevieve constantly declaring She would not be his wife, till she had again seen her father. The time appointed came; but no Vaucluse made his appearance; we, therefore, wrote to him, and hastened to Havre, where we were to embark. We reached there in safety, and, five days after, sailed with a fair wind. My little boy and my wife felt severely the effects of the sea, for the first four days; but Genevieve was but slightly affected by it; the child's nurse was very ill.

"We had been out at sea nine days;

three

three of the last we had been nearly becalmed, only at times catching a gentle breeze. On the morning of the tenth, the man on the look-out espied a sail a-head, bearing down with oars, which appeared to gain upon us every moment. The captain took his glass. I was standing by him at the moment. I observed his countenance change, as he viewed the approaching object. In an instant, all was hurry and confusion; all hands were summoned upon deck, and orders given to prepare for action. 'This is no trifling enemy,' said the captain, turning to his men; 'we must, my lads, prepare to sell our lives dearly, and not flinch; we must conquer or die: it will be a tough bout, but never mind.'

"To tell you what I felt, when I discovered the approaching sail to be a Sallee rover, would be more than I am capable

capable of. My wife, my child, my sister, rushed like a torrent on my mind: but there was no time for deliberation. They were placed in the hold for safety, and all hands appeared on deck. Our ship mounted six brass swivels, and two two-pounders on the quarter-deck. She had ten men, including the captain, and nine passengers, seven of whom were my family; the others, a gentleman and his servant, who had remained in his birth, owing to the illness he had experienced from sea-sickness. The rover bore down rapidly upon us. The captain desired I would go to the ladies, as my ignorance in maritime affairs might be fatal to me, but could not possibly benefit him. I descended, and found my wife, through terror, had fallen into fits. She clasped her infant to her bosom, and Genevieve found it impossible to disengage him, she held him

so

so tight. However, I at last succeeded in getting him from her. I caught her in my arms. I tried to make her sensible I was near her, but in vain.—Poor Genevieve held the dear babe to her bosom and kept close to us.

"In the mean time, the rover had overtaken and endeavoured to board us, but was beat off by the guns and a fire of small arms. She was a large galley, mounted twelve guns, with a hundred men. The fire of our swivels and musquetry had made considerable havoc among them. The pirate, irritated at their repulse, returned to the charge with redoubled fury. The fight continued near twenty minutes, when they succeeded in boarding us. At that instant, the other passenger, whom we had not before seen, entered the hold covered with blood. He ran eagerly to us, and clasped my sister to his bleeding

bleeding bosom. 'Ah! Genevieve,' said he, 'and is it thus we part for ever? would to heaven you had listened to my advice!'

"I looked earnestly in the face of the stranger, and discovered in him the features of Vaucluse. Soon after the barbarians entered. Genevieve dropped insensible on the floor: My dear babe by the fall had received a blow which cut his cheek; the blood flowed in streams. I caught up the suffering innocent, and endeavoured to stop the effusion with linen, which I tore in agony from my breast. My poor wife was still insensible. I turned to the wretches that had entered, and, in Moorish, deprecated their pity for the helpless victims that lay before them. They regarded us for a minute with silent indignation; then turning to me, said the christian dog had made

too

too great a resistance, to expect pity from them, and bade us prepare to receive their captain.

"At that moment, a tall ferocious looking man entered. He surveyed the miserable group with apparent pleasure, and gave orders for our being conveyed on board the galley. I accosted him and implored his pity, but in vain. The slaves took my wife in their arms. I endeavoured to oppose them, but was struck down; my bleeding infant was snatched from me; I was loaded with chains, and the miserable Vaucluse, who had, I afterwards found, assisted to defend the ship, and was much wounded, was loaded with heavier chains than myself. We were all conveyed on board the pirate, and, oh! miserable to relate! I saw, for the last time, my dear, my tender wife.

"Vaucluse,

"Vaucluse, myself and three others, all that remained of the crew, were placed together. The captain had been killed the moment the infidels succeeded in boarding the vessel. Vaucluse's servant, who had fought by the side of his master, fell likewise. At that moment, Vaucluse, who had received a severe wound on his head, and another on his arm, quitted the deck and descended to us. Six of the crew were killed by the fire from the galley, and the pirates had lost three-and-twenty of theirs. When I found we were to be separated from all I held dear in life, reason fled, and I became the wretched victim of merciless barbarians. Ah! my God! pity the past sufferings of the being thou hast formed, and, out of thy merciful goodness, hasten that period, when my aged eyes will close for ever in this world, to open again in everlasting happiness!

"Pardon

"Pardon my weakness," said the good old man; "though so many years have passed over my wretched head, yet I cannot resist the tear of recollection."

Fitzallan and the captain sympathized in his sorrow, and added the tear of pity to his sufferings. After a pause, he proceeded.

"How long I remained in a state of insanity, I know not, but, I believe, some months. During my deprivation of reason, it seemed I had been treated with lenity. The Mahometans are taught a kind of respect for the miserable maniacs; but that pity which they bestow on them is denied to those who are sensible of their sufferings. As soon, therefore, as reason had again resumed her seat, I awoke to all the sense of bitterness and woe. When I

began to recover, I was ordered to work in the garden. My portion was to dig sand, and wheel it to a distant part, where a large mount had been raised, and at which all the captives worked. I had asked several questions about my wife, my child, and my sister; but they were wholly ignorant of their fate, or pretended to be so. I could not learn whether I was the slave of the man who captured us, or had been sold to some other. Often, when my strength was inadequate to the work I was set about, have I fainted, and been called back to life by the stripes of the barbarian who was set over us.

"I had been in this miserable state three years, when we were informed that a company of English and French gentlemen had arrived, for the express purpose of ransoming English slaves. My heart beat with transport at the sound.

sound. 'Ah! my God!' said I, 'hast thou at last heard the prayers of thy wretched servant, and shall I once more be blessed with the sight of those dear objects of all my cares, if they still exist!

"I passed the night in hopes and fears, such as had nearly again overset my poor tottering brain. I had suffered severely the day before, from a punishment inflicted on me, for my inability to perform the task enjoined. My limbs were lacerated, and my body worn to a skeleton. When I was ordered out to the square among the other captives, I was too weak to stand, and was obliged to be supported thither. I eagerly looked around me, to see if, amongst those that were to be redeemed, I could discover any one of the dear objects for whom my soul panted. Wholly regardless of those that were to

perform the work of angels, my eye revolved back with despair. A heart-rending sigh tore my bosom—when I found myself clasped in the arms of Vaucluse!!!

"I dropped insensible upon his breast. I was carried out to an apartment, where those that were ransomed had assembled. Love, grief, fear, joy, all assailed me by turns. I looked wildly round, and could scarcely believe my senses. All whirled in strong confusion. I had a cordial given me; it acted like electricity; my frame seemed to feel new vigor, and I attempted to walk, with my ransomed fellow-sufferers, to the house appointed to receive us; but I again fainted, and was obliged to be carried thither. Every accommodation was procured for me that my wretched situation required; but it was some days before I was collected

lected enough to talk with that faithful friend, Vaucluse, when he came to me, and, in the most tender manner, answered all my enquiries.

"He told me, that, Before we reached the port of Sallee, which was not till the evening of the second day, I was in the wildest state of distraction. As soon as we came there, I was placed apart, and, from the discourse of one of the Christian slaves, who spoke French, he understood I was taken care of; but himself and the other three were treated with the greatest severity. His wounds were neglected, and, had it not been for the humanity of the Christian slave, he must have perished, the second day of his being brought there; but he washed his wounds, and procured for him a cordial, which he gave him three or four times a day.

"He had been there near a fortnight, before he could gain the least intelligence respecting the ladies. At length, through this good slave, he learnt they had been carried up into the country, to a house, or rather haram, belonging to the captain, about six leagues from Sallee, and the child had been carried there likewise. This was all the intelligence he could procure, and it was not long before he was, with three others, sold to a Moorish merchant, who had recently come to reside at Sallee. To this worthy man he owed his liberty; for, soon after he had been with him, he came to examine whether his wounds were enough healed, to enable him to assist in the work of the house, the principal of which then was to carry water to and from the baths. He found him incapable of lifting any thing of weight. He asked what friends he had, and whether he thought they would be inclined —

clined to ransom him. Vaucluse told him without reserve his real situation, and the misery he endured respecting the fate of the ladies. This good Moor gave him reason to hope every thing; for, he would endeavour to procure intelligence of them. He bid him write home to his friends, and named the price of his ransom, which was but very little more than what he had paid for his purchase.—In three weeks after, he heard that my dear, my tender Maria was no more. She had died the day after her removal from Sallee. My little boy had been adopted by the captain, who had lost a son about a month before he captured us. My dear Genevieve was alive, and that was all. One of the maids was dead, the other living and well; but my man was killed in the engagement. The good Moor said he had offered a ransom for Genevieve,

but could not do any thing for my dear child; he being adopted, it was to no purpose to mention it.

"This," said Vaucluse, "was the dismal tidings I received; and, believe me, when I assure you that I could not help rejoicing in your state of insensibility, knowing how acutely you would feel your sorrows. As soon as I had procured intelligence of you, I lost not a moment in sending to my friends, for a sum sufficient to effect the ransom of all; but the Almighty decreed it otherwise; my relations did not answer my letters. My good master had purchased my dear Genevieve; she resided in his house, and was employed in instructing his two daughters, the one about eleven years of age, the other nine.

"Here, though I could not have the

the happiness of seeing her, yet I had the satisfaction of hearing she was well, and I had been permitted to inform her of my situation and yours. She had written to me, and in her letter she had earnestly desired, that I would, if anywise possible, send to her father, and briefly relate what had happened. This idea had never struck me. I had been so much taken up with the thoughts of hearing from my friends, and occupied with your miseries, that I had not even thought of the only man on earth I ought to have addressed upon the subject. I wrote immediately, and, by the assistance of my good friend, this letter was sent to Tangiers. What was my distress, when an answer came, announcing the death of that dear friend! He had been dead above a week. I dreaded to impart this news to Genevieve, and by the advice of my master, kept it from her. How-

ever, he thought it advisable to send immediately to a correspondent he had at Tangiers, whom he desired to apply for an account in what manner the affairs of M. La Touche had been left.

"We waited a considerable time for an answer; at length, one came, stating that, though he had repeatedly applied to the gentleman to whom he had been directed, he had met with nothing but evasive answers; that, tired out with repeated applications, he had at last addressed the French consul, who had undertaken to bring the business forward, and he was led to hope it would not long be delayed. However, there were many reasons to think that the men, in whose hands M. La Touche's affairs were, would make it their study to protract the business as long as possible, especially as the heirs of M. La Touche were in captivity; but, if any

person

person of consideration was to come as their representative, in all probability it would soon be settled.

"This letter gave me much uneasiness. I had not as yet heard from my family, though letter after letter had been sent. My good master saw the misery I endured, not only on my own account, but on yours, and my dear Genevieve's. He saw the conflict, and generously offered to go to Tangiers, and take me and Genevieve with him. I fell at his feet in a transport of gratitude. You at this time were in the same insensible state, as when we first landed at Sallee.

"This good man soon made preparations for our departure. We reached Tangiers in safety; but I will not attempt to paint the distress of the dear Genevieve. For some weeks we had

every reason to fear she would be in the same state as yourself; but Heaven, at last, restored her to us, and, in four months, I had the satisfaction of finding M. La Touche's affairs settled, as far as they could then be arranged. A copy of his will had remained at Tangiers. The will itself had been sent to Cambray, to a relation of his wife's. It appeared that he was, at the time of making it, ignorant of our intention of leaving Flanders, and Fate cut short his thread of life, before he could be made acquainted with the misfortune that had befallen us; for, he lived but a very short time after he wrote that fatal letter, which laid the foundation for all the miseries you have suffered.

"As soon as matters were arranged, we paid the benevolent Moor the money he had advanced for Genevieve's ransom and my purchase, and hastened

to

to return to Sallee, to procure your release; but guess what was our grief and amazement, when we found that the captain of the rover had been either killed, or taken prisoner by an English ship, which he had the temerity to engage; that the whole of the property had been seized on by his brother, who had sold all his slaves, and was gone to Fez. We set about to make every enquiry about you; but, after the most diligent search, for two months, we remained in the same state of ignorance as before. The poor Genevieve refused all comfort, and would not be persuaded to leave Sallee, till some intelligence had been obtained respecting yourself, or the dear boy. The good Moor, at whose house we resided, still continued his search. He offered liberal rewards to any one who should give any account of you, either dead or alive; but all proved ineffectual. We, therefore, concluded

cluded you had died in the state in which we left you, and that the child had been taken to Fez with the woman. Proper men were sent there to make the same enquiries, but no news could be obtained of either.

"Finding it impossible to gain any intelligence, I at last succeeded in persuading Genevieve to return with me to Flanders. I had not received a single line from my family, and I was in hopes that I could prevail upon the dear girl to bless me with her hand, if I could once more get her amongst her friends. She at length reluctantly consented to go, and places were taken for us in a fruit boat, to carry us to Gibraltar, from whence we hoped to get a passage to some port of France. We left our hospitable protector with tears, under whose roof we had experienced more humanity than we ever should

should, had a similar lot befallen us, among those who profess the faith of Christ. He assured us, at parting, that nothing should be left undone by him to ascertain your fate and the child's. We staid at Gibraltar three weeks, and then obtained a passage in a merchantman bound for Bordeaux.

"When we reached Cambray, we were astonished at the amazing alteration we saw, not only on the domain belonging to my father, but that belonging to you. The places appeared totally changed, and, when we drew up to the door of the hotel, which nearly faced my father's, I was surprised to see two servants, who were strangers to me, in deep mourning, walk down the avenue, leading a child. Supposing them to be visitors to my friends, I left Genevieve at the hotel, and walked up to the house. I had on a Moorish dress,

and

and of course was not recognized. I asked for my father. 'He is dead,' said the servant—for my mother—'She is at Soissons'—for my brother—'He is dead too; we are now in mourning for him.'

"A cold shivering seized me; I grew sick, and instantly fainted. Those that were near conveyed me into a room. I soon recovered, and from the servants I understood, that My father had died four months after my departure, of the small pox; that my mother had not been in health since; but she had lived with my brother, till he had been killed in a duel by an English gentleman, with whom he had quarrelled at the Opera, and that my mother, in consequence of this additional distress, had lost her senses, and been confined, as she had lost her other son (meaning me) some time before, but nobody knew how

how, as he had not been seen for a long time, and it was supposed he was killed; for, a letter had come, to say he had gone on board a ship, and been taken by pirates. This incoherent account induced me to ask Who was in possession of the domain. They said, A nephew of my father's, the very man I had addressed my letters to, and whom I had requested to make known my situation to my father; but it was evident the treacherous wretch had never interested himself for me, but meanly, nay, inhumanly, suppressed my letters. My heart rose with quick resentment against the unfeeling monster.—'Go, tell your master to come to me immediately,' said I. 'What name shall we give?' said one of them. 'Derwent Vaucluse,' said I; 'I insist on seeing him.' The servants looked at me with amazement. 'How long has my brother been dead?' I asked; 'Some months,'

months,' said a woman servant. 'And pray, how long has your master come here to reside?' 'About a month, sir,' said she; 'Tis well,' said I; 'and my unhappy mother is in confinement at Soissons: why was she taken so far from Cambray?' 'I don't know,' answered the woman; 'there are many reports; but I believe Madame made choice of that place.'

"More discourse passed, but my cousin came not. I sent a second message; the man returned, saying His master was very ill, and was certain I could not be the person I pretended to be, as Derwent Vaucluse had been dead above two years. 'Your master does not choose to see me then,' said I. 'I should think so, sir,' replied he. I instantly left the house, and hastened to my Genevieve, to whom I imparted what had passed. I then sent for proper

per cloaths, and ordered a notary to be fetched, who was used to transact business for my father, and who I supposed was acquainted with every circumstance that had occurred. He was under many obligations to my family, and I did not doubt but he was the properest person to apply to. He came, and started at seeing me; expressed his astonishment at finding me living, and awkwardly congratulated me on my return. His embarrassment was evident. I noticed it, and told him of it, asking Why my appearance should so much discompose him. He stammered something, but evaded giving the satisfaction I demanded respecting the affairs of my family.

"Finding I could get no proper information from him, I dismissed him, and sent for Counsellor Pauswelle, one who had the reputation of being an honest

honest man, and he proved himself so to me. In about a fortnight, I had the satisfaction of seeing myself allowed to take possession of my inheritance, and to turn out a rascal, who had taken advantage of my miserable situation, suppressed all my letters, and had it confirmed that, not only myself, but all the family of La Touche, had perished. Their effects had also been taken possession of by the family to whom M. La Touche had sent his will; but they gave us no trouble; they immediately resigned to Genevieve all that had belonged to her father, and your effects were placed in proper hands, to have them restored, if ever you, or your son, should return to your native country.

"As soon as all things were settled, the relations of my Genevieve prevailed on her to bless me with her hand; but not

not till I had the happiness of again seeing my mother. I had her removed from Soissons, and, by the kind attention shown her by every one, she was soon restored to reason, and the pleasure she evinced on seeing me again gave me a satisfaction that heightened every comfort. I was soon the happy husband; but a cloud of sorrow hung perpetually on the face of my Genevieve, and she would often say—'Ah! Vaucluse, there is nothing now wanting to complete my happiness, but a knowledge of Marlbro's fate. If we were sure he was dead, I would endeavour to be content; but, to be ignorant of his, and the dear boy's, at times makes me miserable. I think I continually see my dear lost Maria, in her dying moments, imploring me to succour her child, and to seek her husband. Ah! how little have I been able to perform either!'

"We

"We had been married about two months, when I had the happiness of hearing from the good Moor, who informed us he had, at last, the pleasure of hearing where to find you; that he should immediately apply for leave to purchase you; but he much feared he should not succeed, as the man who then owned you was at variance with him; and the only sure way to obtain your release, was sending some person to purchase Christian slaves; and he had not the least doubt, from the knowledge he had of the man's character, that he would readily part with you, as you were but of little service to him. Genevieve was overcome with joy at this news. 'Now,' said she, 'I hope this is the prelude to finding the dear child.' I instantly proposed going myself, to set you free, but determined to get a proper protection from the emperor's consul. This I obtained, and

and sailed directly, and, by the assistance of our good friend at Sallee, had soon the happiness of seeing you as you now are. The other poor fellows you saw were those that were taken with you. One of them, I fear, will not live; the severity he has experienced will, in all probability, put an end to his existence; however, what can be done to preserve him will.'

"Here Vaucluse ceased. I had listened with the greatest attention to all he said. The death of my Maria, and the loss of my child, sunk deep into my heart, and I made a resolution never to return to France, until I had again seen my child, or, at any rate, got intelligence of his fate. Yet I wished to see Genevieve, to hear from her what the last moments of my dear, my tender wife, were; but, if I went back to France, I thought, in all probability,

bability, I should miss an opportunity of recovering my son.

"I had not once thought of asking Vaucluse in what manner he came to be on board our ship; but he told me, that On going to Paris with his family, he had made a request to his father, that he would permit him to receive the hand of Genevieve before her departure; but his father had given a positive refusal, and in consequence of that, he had hastened to the port of Havre, and agreed with the captain for his passage with us. He did not mean to make himself known to us, until our arrival at Tangiers: for that reason, he had kept himself in his birth. He had hired a strange servant to attend him, leaving his own man at Paris; but, upon the attack of the pirates, he had hastened upon deck, which I had that moment quitted, and had

fought

fought with the sailors. His man had been killed, the first broadside the rover fired, and this excited him to fury; but, in spite of all their efforts, the infidels succeeded in boarding, and the man was struck over board, in the opposition that was made on their first gaining the deck, which was the moment when the captain fell lifeless at the feet of his conquerors. Seeing that, he said, he descended to us and the dreadful separation followed.

"It was some weeks before I was well enough to think of moving; however, I, at last, recovered; but it was to misery. I told Vaucluse my intention of searching for my child; he made use of every argument to dissuade me from it, but in vain. He returned to Flanders, with my companions in sorrow, and I set off for Fez, furnished with letters from our Sallee friend to

"This account raised my spirits; I was all impatience to reach Malta, where Heaven in mercy restored my dear lost boy to his wretched father. I found it was indeed my child, who had been so miraculously preserved, and I could not enough bless the interposition of Heaven. He had been taken under the protection of the knight that commanded the galley, who had placed him under the tuition of a Jesuit, with whom he lived in habits of intimacy. As soon as I arrived at Malta, I applied myself to the grand prior of the French commanderie, requesting I might be permitted to see the child. My request was immediately granted. I told him my reasons, and, if it was my child, he would have a cut on the right side of his face, extending to the projection of the ear, which was cut quite through. My story was attended to; I was heard

with compassion, and, in less than an hour, I had the happiness of clasping the dear image of my lost Maria to my care-worn bosom.

"To tell my raptures would be impossible. I fell, in a transport of gratitude, at the feet of his preserver. He was one of the most humane and exalted characters that ever drew the breath of life. He raised me up—soothed my soul to peace. He ordered a Greek lady, who resided with him, to see that every thing comfortable for me was immediately procured. My emaciated frame stood in need of rest: that I obtained, and, oh! my God! what were my joys, when I lay down upon a comfortable bed, and saw my dear boy sleeping by me! I could scarcely believe it real. I walked several times; I stretched out my hand, to see whether he was still by me;

then I would catch up the lamp, and hold it over him, and view the infant traces of my Maria's face; then thank my God, and try to rest again.

"In this manner I passed many hours; at last, I dropped into a profound sleep, which had lasted some time, when I was awoke by the dear boy's asking me leave to go to his preceptor. Accustomed to rise at an early hour, he had waked at his usual time; but finding me asleep, and no one to dress him, he had lain down again; till, afraid of being chid for being too late, he had ventured to rouse me. I arose, blessed my boy, and led him to his benefactor. That day, I related to the worthy man all that had come within my recollection, since the time I left Havre. He commiserated my misfortunes, and felt for me as a brother. The grand prior and the

the whole of the order behaved to me with the greatest kindness. I continued here a considerable time longer than I intended; for, I knew not how to leave them; but, willing to give joy to the breasts of Genevieve and Vaucluse, I at length determined to quit Malta. I had a passage procured for me and my son in an English frigate that had touched there. I left those dear and valued friends with regret, but not without a promise that my son should one day return to bless them, when he was old enough to be truly sensible of the great debt of gratitude he owed them.

"I was landed by the frigate at Portsmouth, and immediately set off to the nearest port of France. I reached Cambray in safety, and had the superlative happiness of being again in the company of those dear

friends, who had for some time given me over for lost. They were almost frantic with joy. Genevieve clasped the dear boy in her arms, and again and again related how she tended the wound he had in his face, and what agony she suffered, when he was taken from her to be placed among the children of the haram. His nurse died two days after his poor mother, who expired in convulsions, as the fits never left her but for short intervals. From the time she dropped in the hold, to the hour of her death, she spoke, Genevieve said, but very little, and that only to implore her to take care of her child, and earnestly to seek me. She was buried by some Christian slaves, as was the nurse; my child, Gevevieve said, had been removed, and the maid servant, some etime previous to her being ransomed by the good

good Moor, but she never could learn where they were taken to.—Many a tear did I shed to the memory of a wife so dearly loved; but religion, at length, softened my sorrows. My son grew amazingly, and promised to make a bright figure in life. Genevieve and Vaucluse were happy; they were blessed with two daughters. We kept up a regular correspondence with our good friend the Moor, and my friends at Malta. When my son was old enough, he expressed a wish to enter the university. I did not oppose it, and he was entered at the Sorbonne.

"I had long had a wish to take upon me the religious habit, and, when my boy became a student, I quitted Cambray, and went to Florence. I had a particular friend there, of the order of St. Benedict. I went to him; his

tenets of religion pleased me, though they were singular in their kind; I embraced them, and, by a train of circumstances too tedious to relate, I became a member of the society at Bononi: an ardent desire to reclaim the members of this community brought me here, and I am in hopes, through the divine assistance, that I shall complete my design.

"Thus, my young friends, have I given you," said the good old man, "a slight sketch of my life and my reasons for being here, which I trust will answer my fond expectations."

Fitzallan and the captain had listened with the most earnest attention to all that the father had related, and so much had they been interested in his fate, that they regretted when he ceased to speak. They looked upon him

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as a being of a superior order, sent, like a primitive saint, to reclaim the lost of God. His mode of reasoning respecting the demons staggered their faith in the non-existence of spirits, and brought them to a resolution to abide by his doctrine. Fitzallan was determined, whether urged to it or not, to try to be received a member at Bononi, and steadily to adhere to the system of father Gregory. They thanked the good man in the warmest terms, for the recital he had given them, and earnestly intreated he would receive them as his disciples. Tears of pleasure glistened in the eyes of the father; he met their offers with heavenly benignity, blessed and received them as his children.

The morning dawned; for, night had fled in conversation on rapid wings; the philosopher and his pupils had not heeded the lapse of time. The sun arose

with resplendent lustre, and darted its glittering beams full into the room, before they could be convinced the night was past, and light had succeeded darkness; such power has a virtuous man's conversation over sensible and intelligent minds.

They arose and went into the park; they strolled to the pavilion, then to that part of the palace which they had seen, as they thought, on fire: all appeared the same as before; nothing was destroyed. The captain said, He had a wish to see in what manner the place looked above; but father Gregory opposed his ascending, saying: "Remember the oracle." They then returned through the vaulted passage, where they heard the heavenly strains, as if chaunting a morning hymn. They listened till the sounds ceased, and proceeded to the hall. Several of the com-

pany

pany were up, and preparing for breakfast—Joseph was amongst them. Vashti, he said, was much better, but still persisted in the same opinion respecting her mother's spirit. Father Gregory went to her; he found the fever abated, but her mind strongly prepossessed with images of the phantoms. He tried to persuade her that her imagination was deceived; but arguments and reasoning were of no avail; her mother's spirit was still before her, and she earnestly intreated father Gregory to tell Joseph, she was certain she never should be able to continue in the palace, or ever be at rest, till she had quitted it.

He was not, in one sense, sorry to hear her talk so, as he augured much good from it. He told her he would certainly talk to Joseph; but he wished her to be reconciled to staying there, for the present, as it would be impossible

ble for her husband, or herself, to go from there, till the return of the members then absent. He quieted her fears of seeing the spectres, and, at length, succeeded in persuading her to rest contented, till the members came home ; he then went to Michael.

Here he found more difficulty than he thought, to reason him out of his fears. The poor fellow had awakened sooner than was expected, and, missing his master, had been so overcome with terror and apprehension, that it was evident his reason was overturned.— Fitzallan came to him, but he knew him not; if he remembered him for a moment, the recollection would vanish, and nothing seemed visible to him but the demons. This sight affected his master more than he chose to own; he lamented the loss of the poor fellow's reason, and earnestly intreated father Gregory,

Gregory, if he could, to devise some means for his relief, as he feared it might be attended with fixed insanity. The father assured him that nothing should be wanting from him, that he could do or procure, to be done. Fitzallan continued in the room with him, for many hours; but, notwithstanding he tried by every means in his power to make him sensible of his being near him, he found it impossible to make him comprehend the least idea.

Three weeks passed, from this time, in constant attendance on the invalids. Vashti was recovered much; but Michael remained, though passive, absolutely deranged. Every method that could be devised had been adopted, but all proved ineffectual. Fitzallan grieved for him, as for a brother, and earnestly wished for the time when he should leave the palace, that he might

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have him put under medical care. The Tuesday after the third week, the captain and he were together in the room where Edward slept, and were in earnest conversation, respecting the doctrine of father Gregory, whose pious soul appeared daily more visible. The longer they conversed with him, the more they admired, approved his principles, and longed to imitate them.—The captain had just remarked how happy such a man must be at an opportunity of doing good, when they heard the outer door of the gallery open, and the footsteps of a man approach the room they were sitting in. He looked at Fitzallan. "Who can this be?" said he; "did we not lock the door when we came in?" "Certainly," answered Fitzallan; "there lies the key, with that of your room, which you put out of your hand, when you took

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up the bottle of medicine. Father Gregory, you know, is gone to his room." At that instant the door opened, and the form of Owen appeared before them, in all the horrors of his last moments. The blood seemed to stream afresh from his side. The face appeared again convulsed, and again the agonies of death, and terrors of eternity, were visible in his whole frame. They both started up, and involuntarily drew back, towards a table, on which lay Fitzallan's pistol. The spectre advanced. As they viewed him nearer, he appeared more fragile, and to glide, instead of walking.—They kept their eyes steadily upon him, and he the same on them. The captain laid his hand upon the table, but had not power to take up the pistol. He turned to the figure, which seemed to take an oblique direction.

"I conjure thee, unhappy man," said

said he, "by all thy hopes of bliss, to tell me why thou hast left the chambers of the dead in this horrid manner, to—"

Before he could finish his interrogation, the outer door opened a second time, and, in a moment, the form of St. Prie stood before them. He was dressed as criminals are, that suffer on the wheel; the last struggle of expiring nature was quivering on his dying lip. The pale and ghastly visage struck ten thousand horrors into the hearts of Fitzallan and the captain, and they found themselves unable to articulate a word. They kept their eyes fixed upon the phantoms, and they as steadily regarded them. Full two minutes passed in total silence, when both the spectres, in a tone that shook their souls with terror, said—

Remem-

"Remember Bononi; yet twice nine days, and then——"

"And what then?" said Fitzallan, assuming courage. "The spirits of the damned will tell thee; we can no more."

At this, a sulphureous flame enveloped them both, and in it they vanished.

The captain, whose eye was riveted to that part of the room, said—"This is too much; I feel myself a coward; surely the good father was afraid of this, when he bade us summon courage, for what we were to see at Bononi: there I should have been prepared; but for this I was not. Your temerity saved me from dropping; it gave an instant turn to my whirling brain. Was ever sight so dreadful! Heaven send

send this hour at Bononi were past! Much as I have thought upon a time that I know must come, I own I was not prepared for such a remembrancer as this. I must now firmly believe that part of the oath, which binds the takers to return dead or alive, to present themselves at the stated period."

Edward had stood fixed as a statue, leaning against the table, totally regardless of all the captain had been saying. Starting from his reverie, he exclaimed: "Period!—what period? Oh! my God, what am I destined to see more? Surely Omnipotence cannot permit any thing more terrifying, to distress a wretched mortal, than the two objects we have just now beheld. Yet twice nine days, and then—and what then? The spirits of the damned will tell thee. Surely the spirits of the damned are those we have just now seen;

seen; those that surrounded us in the pavilion did not so much unman me as these diabolical appearances. Yet twice nine days, and then—we are to see them again I suppose. The heavenly powers forbid! I had sooner meet a legion of the damned, or ten legions of men opposed to my single arm, than see this sight again. Wou'd to God the father had been here! he would have got out of them what they meant. For my own part, I shall look upon myself as a woman, and not a single spark of man about me, if I am to shrink thus from every appalling sight."

"Let us go to the father," said Edward, "and hear what he will say; but we must take care we do not encounter them again in our way; for, if we do, upon my soul, I shall run back. How is it I did not feel such a coward, when

when the ladies paid us a visit in the ruins, as I do now? I know not whether there is a peculiar charm about the drapery of a lady, or whether a petticoat possesses the art of stimulating our courage; but this much I know, that, with them, I felt no terrors at all; but with these I feel myself as great a coward as ever turned tail on the field of battle, and damme if I would encounter them again, to be made Chan of Tartary.

"Nor I, by heavens!" said the captain; "but let us, however, seek father Gregory."

"I cannot think," said Edward, "of leaving this poor fellow here alone; 'tis a thousand to one but these very diabolical fiends were what he saw, when I was from him; and, if so, 'tis no wonder his reason is overturned, when it had

had received such a recent shock. For my own part, I cannot help thinking the whole palace to be the repository of the damned, and we happen to be here at the time of their Jubilee. Ah! father Gregory, well might thy righteous soul endeavour to reclaim the earthy inhabitants of this mansion, that they may quit it, and leave the damned at free liberty to enjoy their revels. Ah! poor Michael! how I pity thee! I wish thou wert in dear Ireland again; there neither devils, witches nor reptiles, pervade your steps, or interrupt your repose; we may walk, sit, or sleep without any fantastic forms being conjured up to play the devil with one."

The captain looked earnestly in the face of Fitzallan, and thought he appeared disordered. He took him by the arm—"Come," said he, "we will only go to the father's chamber, and desire him

him to come here, and then he will not be left alone." "True," said Edward.

To descend to the part of the building where the father's room was, they must of necessity open the doors they had heard the spectres open, and pass the little gallery, at which they had entered; but this idea seemed to have slipped from their memory. The captain took up the key, and unlocked the door, looking every way around for some other hideous form to glance by them; but, nothing appearing, they went on to the father. He was amazed to see them at that time of night, and much more so, when they informed him of the reason, and related every particular. He seemed hurt at seeing Fitzalan so much affected, and went back with them to his room, as he thought he saw his countenance change rapid-

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ly; but they had not sat down five minutes, and begun to reason on what had passed, before they heard the sound of a vast number of voices, and presently found the whole company was returned from Naples. This surprised them, and the captain went down. Not one of them but was come back. As this was unexpected, he was at a loss to account for it; but upon interrogation, he was informed they had received the first summons to Bononi. "How, the first summons?" said he; "what mean you?"

"We mean, sir," said the lieutenant, "that we were summoned, nine days ago, to return here by this evening, and, in twice nine days more, to be at Bononi."

"And what summons did you receive? asked the captain, "and in

what manner was it delivered; I have my reasons for asking you so particularly."

"If we were to tell you," answered he, "you would not believe us; but I dare say the father will, if we inform him."

"I will believe you," replied the captain, "say what you will."

"If so," said the lieutenant," I will tell you. We had met at a house, near the royal palace, at Naples, as five of us had been at court that day, and been very successful. Captain Parlati and myself meant to be there again the next day, when four of our company came in, and said, If we all went to the Opera, that night, we should stand a chance to pick up something handsome, as a new piece was to be performed

formed, and the whole strength of the house was called in to support it; and as the court patronized the author, the theatre, of course, would be full of the first characters. We had no sooner decided on it, than we prepared to go. The whole of our party took our stations in different parts of the house; but, first, we agreed to wave all invitations we might receive, and sup together.

"At the hour appointed by us, we met, and supper was soon after served up. We had taken it; the cloth was removed, and we were about to shew our different acquisitions, when, as Parlati turned round to speak to Price, close by his side, he beheld the form of Owen! and, on the opposite side, directly facing him, stood St. Prie, in all the habiliments of death, Owen, with the blood streaming from his wound,

and the most ghastly countenance that ever man beheld. Not one at the whole table, but felt themselves less than women. The blood forsook my cheeks, and I believe there was not one but what felt as great a terror as myself: none had the power to speak; a solemn silence, like the dead of night, succeeded the boisterous mirth that a moment before surrounded the board, and we all involuntarily turned our eyes upon the hideous forms, who seemed as intently to regard us.

"One of the servants, at this moment, entered the room with fruit. The instant he observed our singular attitudes, the terror visible in our countenances, and the dead silence that reigned, he imagined that, by the power of magic, we had been transformed into as many statues. Staring wildly round him, his eye encountered

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the dreadful visions; down went the fruit, and, wild with terror, the fellow tried to leave the room; but St. Prie, like a basilisk, had fixed his eye upon him, and the poor devil, unable, from fright to move to the door, fell senseless by the chair of Berdulo. Parlati, at that moment, either from fear or courage, I know not which, asked Owen what brought *him* amongst us; when, in a tone of voice that made us tremble, they bade us, in nine days, return to this place, and, in twice nine more, to be at Florence, where the damned would meet us and inform us farther. Then, in circling flames of sulphureous vapor, they vanished. The door was not opened, from the time the servant entered; and, had they left it by that entrance, we must have seen it; but, instead of that, flames, like those emited from Vesuvius, appeared to envelope them.

"To tell you that all our evening's amusements were at an end would be useless; not one amongst us but felt an anxiety, attended with a wish to be alone, though all dreaded to be so. We sat some time without the power to speak, attempt to take up the man, or call for assistance to do it. There he lay, and there sat we, wholly unable to move. At last, the fellow being wanted; he was fetched. The door being opened, we had presence of mind to bid the man who came to fetch him, to lift the poor fellow up. He was raised, and we summoned courage enough to move; but we found it a difficult matter to get him to life. When we did, the strange grimace he made, and the terrors he exhibited, brought all the people in the house about us, asking ten thousand questions, to all of which we knew not what to answer; but, after the confu-

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sion was over, and we could think upon what was past, we agreed to obey precisely the injunctions we had received; in consequence of which, we prepared to return, and that has brought us home to night. The whole of the company can prove the truth of my relation, and the testimony of the poor frightened fellow will confirm it."

"I do not doubt a syllable of what you have related," said the captain; "for, if you had said only yourself had seen it, I should have believed you, as I have seen them myself this evening, and so has the gentleman you left here. But we shall have many things to tell you of, when the community meet, and the father is with us. I must now go to him; he is waiting, with the gentleman and his servant, in their apartment." The captain then returned to Fitzallan, and related what had past.

"Now," said he, "I am convinced that what we saw was not imaginary; what, father, is your opinion?" "That Heaven, out of pity," said the father, "for the depravity of human nature, permits those unhappy spirits to frequent their former abode, that the power of the Almighty may be made manifest, and that it may strike conviction into the breasts of those men, who have frequently derided the power of God and his angels, admitting only a passive Providence to regulate the ways of men. The appearance of those spectres will confirm what I have often laboured to make them believe; that the air is filled with myriads of fleeting spirits, who are continually hovering near every mortal, either to warn him against the commission of any crime, or violence, or to urge him on to acts that destroy his peace for ever.

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"This opinion of mine is neither singular nor romantic; it has been believed by philosophers of all ages and all climes; it has been handed down to us from the most remote period of antiquity, and is confirmed by the Syrians, Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. Among the latter, the Emperor Julian, commonly called the Apostate, ranks the most conspicuous, and not a single modern author of any eminence who did not profess atheism, but what has confirmed this opinion.—Among the English authors of the present day, who support my system, may be reckoned the great Milton, Addison, Boyle, Birchell, Littleton, and many others, who have written on metaphysical subjects. Add to these a vast number of German authors of no less celebrity, whose reputations will never die. It is in the power of Heaven alone to bring good out of evil, and,

by the fall of a few of his creatures, to redeem others. The paths of good and evil are set before every one that draws the breath of life, and in this particular we are free agents.

"But it must not be supposed, because we are so, that Omnipotence is regardless of our actions; no, far from it, the power of God and his attributes are such, as to take in the whole scope of human nature. He knows our frailties; he pities our weakness, and, for that purpose, has deputed to every one a protecting angel, who watches and guides our steps, from the moment of our birth, to the close of our life. If the paths which we are destined to tread should be set with thorns and briars, with cheering encouragement they support and strengthen us. Hope is ever in their train, and to the blissful seats of never-ending felicity they point continually.

tinually. If a man, tired of his guide, presumes on his own strength, and, ruled by the effervescence of his passions, rudely dismisses the guardian angel from his care, a damned spirit, ever on the watch to catch a mortal without his guide, instantly attacks him. He holds out to him, in the most alluring colors, the fascinating charms of vice; the poor deluded being, emancipated, as he calls it, from the austerity of virtue, eagerly embraces the captivating wanton, and, in a delirium of destructive pleasures, drowns all remembrance of former virtues. He is taught by his companions, in the first place, to ridicule religion and the practisers of it, to laugh at all those who may by the force of conscience, be prevented from committing a diabolical action; and, in the next place, to despise all those who have reason sufficient to act upon moral principles.

"This grand step atchieved, they soon acquire turpitude enough, to throw off all religion and dread of a future state, by listening with rapture to the sophistry of the demons around him, who teach him That a man's conscience is the only hell he has to dread; and, as to the idea of a saviour, it is a mere farce, invented by juggling priests, to scare fools withal: That the Almighty never created beings, however sinful their lives, however vile their actions, to be doomed for those crimes to eternal misery: That it is inconsistent with the attributes of God, *if there is one*, to act on principles directly opposite to his mercy and goodness, and that it cannot be supposed he can be attentive to the trifling actions of insignificant man; they are too much below his notice, and to live and enjoy life on principles best suited to our inclinations, is the only way we can pursue

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to live at all. If they are guilty of an action that is amenable to the laws, they smile and say—'My neighbours do the same, only they are more careful in keeping it secret, and so pass for good moral men among old women and fools, and by that means, obtain the character of a christian; mere bombast all; the priest that pretends to point the way to everlasting happiness is a greater hypocrite than those he affects to teach.'

"Thus they divest a man of all fear of a future state: he becomes worse than the beast of the field, and if civil laws did not restrain him, there is no action, however atrocious, no crimes, however great, but he is ready to commit, and then soul and body sink together. As soon as a man has arrived to this state of wickedness, the demons have sure and certain hold, which they take sufficient care not to lose; but, when

when the hour of death approaches, the sinner is sensible of the folly he has been guilty of, in dismissing the virtuous guide of his actions. Devils behold his remorse; they triumph in his pangs, and gather round him with insulting taunts. They point out to him the good he has derided, and laugh at him for his credulity, in believing; and, as he expires, they snatch his soul to them, which instantly make an additional number to the damned."

"You are then," said Fitzallan, of opinion that it rests with every man to be either happy or miserable in another state, and it is our own fault if we do not insure an eternal felicity." "It certainly is," said the father; "there is an instance of that among the great men of your nation, who have, in spite of every allurement, died *good* men. When he was upon his death-bed, turning

ing to those that were weeping round him.—"Behold me," said he, "and remark with what peace a christian can die." A man, who firmly believes in a future state, looks forward with transport to the moment that shall divest him of those trammels of clay, which hold the soul a prisoner. He pants for emancipation and smiles at the approach of death. It is not so with an irreligious man, who has in life boasted of his contempt of religion, proudly denied a saviour, and pluming himself upon his acquisition of philosophy, dared to act from what he calls the dictates of reason. Only view him on the couch of death, and see whether his soul is so ready to quit his clay as that of the *christian.* If there is in reality no future state of rewards and punishments, why does he start at death? why, if we are to sink into final annihilation, does he dread to die. The man

man who has nothing to fear will gladly throw off a load of body that racks him with pain and torture, and not shrink from that which is ready to relieve him from all his cares. The sophist may dispute, the atheist may deny, but his inmost thoughts confess there is a God, and a punishment hereafter, which he has to dread.

"Observe the body of a good man, when the vital spark is fled; the countenance all mild, placid, and serene, bespeaks the soul at rest. View that of one of these boasted philosophers in the like situation; the contrast is striking. The one you look at with tender regret, the other you start from with horror and disgust. I have had many opportunities of making these observations, and have ventured to tell, from the apppearance of the inanimate body, what the being had been, whose soul

soul had a short time before given motion to the sleeping dust. Do you both make the same remarks, as you go through life, and I will venture to predict you will find what I have said verified. There is a remarkable instance of this taken notice of by the great Duke De Sully, in his mention of the uncommon death of the fair Gabrielle d'Estrées. I could name a thousand instances, if there needed it, to support my assertion; but common occurrences will furnish you with sufficient opportunities for conviction. An ingenuous and good man lets not the most trifling events that ha ppen slip his observation; he sees, he attends, he reasons, and the sum of his reflections is, that the infinity of God is such, that the finity of man cannot comprehend as he ought the immensity of his power; but he acknowledges him in all his works, and trusts to him for every

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good; he feels his soul expanded, and exultingly exclaims; 'when this mortal being shall have put on immortality, then shall I behold my God and worship him in spirit and in truth.'

"Often has my soul panted to be gone, and to quit this world of pain and misery; but, when I have reflected for a moment, that, in all probability, I might yet live, to warn a fellow creature from falling into the destructive snares of vice, or of being able to draw another from his evil ways, all selfish considerations have ceased, and I have again turned my thoughts to the world and its inhabitants. It was thoughts like these that brought me here, and, though a member at Bononi, yet I have presumed to act upon my own principles, without as yet having recourse to spiritual assistance; but I fear much I shall not be able to complete my design

sign without it, as there are here many refractory beings, who have attained that pitch of vice, that it is next to impossible to divest them of it. Often does my heart feel pangs for them, which they are unable to feel for themselves; and, when I have heard them recount instances of their wickedness and depravity, my soul has sunk within me. I am led to hope that the appearance of these two unhappy men, added to what they will be informed of respecting the lake and the pavilion, will have more weight than all the arguments of the most able divines, or all the examples that the most perfect christian could set before them. It will tend at once to convince them of the truth of what I have often asserted, that the air is full of immaterial beings, who are constantly viewing all our actions, and are privy to our inmost thoughts; but, whenever I have hint-

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ed at those ideas, I have been laughed at and regarded as a brainsick votary of religion.

"I am led to think those two phantoms will visit them again, before we reach Florence; but I hope your reliance on your God will be such, as not to shew the least fear. You will receive no personal harm, and you may learn, by what I have just said, the necessity there is of shewing the contrasted appearance of virtuous and vicious men, when visited by those whose souls wander in the world of spirits. I can venture to say you will all be together when they come again; if so, remember what I have enjoined you. You know my intentions respecting the future happiness of those we are among, and I trust you will not fail to aid me in it: if I succeed, I shall think I have lived to some purpose, and you, my young friends,

friends, will likewise find your account in it. Recollect there is greater joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, than over ninety and nine just persons that need no repentance."

The captain and Fitzallan both assured him that nothing should be wanting on their parts to assist his design. Michael was by the father pronounced to be in that deranged state, as would require the aid of those that were particularly acquainted with that disasterous malady. He should, he said, propose the next morning to have him conveyed to Naples, and placed under medical care; and, as their time would be but short at the palace, it should be done as soon as possible. Fitzallan hove a sigh for the poor fellow, and said he hoped there was a possibility of his being cured. "Certainly," said the father, "if he is properly treated,

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and that shall be my care; but you must be content to be separated from him till we return here again, and I hope, by that time, his reason will be restored. Fitzallan assented, and they then descended to the great hall, where the whole company was assembled, listening with the most profound attention to the relation Joseph was giving of what had happened in their absence, the illness of Vashti, and her resolution to leave the place, which the others confirmed, and added likewise their's to do the same as soon as their visit to Bononi was over.

When Joseph had ended his narration, which none had attempted to interrupt, the captain told them what himself and Fitzallan had seen that evening, and what the spectres had said, which appeared to have a great effect upon them. They all addressed

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the father, asking his opinion and what he thought was meant by it; to which he answered nearly in the same words he had made use of to the captain. They paid the most profound attention to his reasoning, and appeared to coincide with his ideas. There were but three out of the whole number what were not sensibly affected. These made a jest of the father's arguments, and said they were certain it was only a chimera of the brain, and all they had seen at home was only phantoms raised by the storm: for, if the house had really been on fire, there would have been some appearance of it afterwards, and it could not be supposed that fire, such as they represented, would go out of itself, or that the devils would be frightened away by music; and, as to hell and all that nonsense, they would be bound for it not one there could say they had ever seen

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it, or knew whereabouts it was situated; and, for their parts, until they had seen Heaven and Hell, they should conclude there were no such places: they had too good an opinion of, and too sincere an attachment to, the good things of this world, and the pleasures it afforded, to fall out with it, or to give themselves any trouble about what place they were to go to hereafter. It was enough for them to enjoy life, whilst they had it in their power, and leave the rest to chance, which they did not doubt would do as much for them in the next world, as it had done for them in this, and that was all they should ever care for.

"Then you think nothing of Owen and St. Prie's appearance," said father Gregory. "Not at all," one of them returned, "we were drunk, I suppose,

when we thought we saw them, and I dare say you were no better."

This was spoken by Price; Parlati seconded it, then put his hand towards a goblet of wine that stood before him, and said, "So, here is perdition to all ghosts, devils and monks!"

He was raising the glass to his lips, when a hand covered with blood took hold of his, and prevented his moving. He saw it, and, with his other hand, endeavoured to remove it, when another hand more bloody than the former grasped both his, and in the same moment, the form of Owen stood between him and Price, whilst that of St. Prie appeared at the lower end of the table, close to the side of the other, who had supported the same doctrine. The whole company rose up, excepting those three, and prepared to leave the

room; but father Gregory, who observed the extreme terror imprinted on their countenances, beckoned the captain and Fitzallan to stay. They did; but, before they had re-seated themselves, both the forms vanished. Price fell back in his chair, uttering a most dreadful oath. Parlati and the other sat motionless. Father Gregory requested the rest not to leave the room; they obeyed, though with evident reluctance.

When Parlati was a little recovered, he looked round him with the greatest terror and apprehension, then at his hands, to see whether any of the blood was on them or not; but pretending to assume courage, he said: "Damn the fellow! what does he mean by coming to me in this manner? who the devil sent for him here!" "No one, I believe," said father Gregory; "their appearance

appearance is not enough inviting; your impious expressions, I think the most likely."

Price spoke not one word; but his countenance expressed the greatest horror. Guiverat, (which was the name of the other,) after a severe struggle with his feelings, fainted away. They were all instantly employed to restore him; but it was some time before he recovered. When he did, Parlati, who seemed to forget every thing, damned him for a cow-hearted poltroon, and said, the next time the dead rascal dared to prevent his drinking what toast he choosed, he would cut him down with his sword. They all smiled with contempt on the braggadocio, as, notwithstanding what he said, the tremor which pervaded his limbs was visible to every one; and, though he several times turned his eye to the goblet,

yet he made no effort to take it in his hand.

Fitzallan had narrowly observed him, and, turning to him, said: "Why don't you drink then? for, I'm sure you want it." "How do you know I want it?" said he, looking fiercely at Fitzallan. "Because I think I should, if I were in your place, and we always draw conclusions from what we feel ourselves." "Probably so," said he, "and I feel your conclusion is meant as an affront to me." "Not at all," replied Fitzallan, "I only wished you to shew your courage, since you say you will most certainly exercise it upon an immaterial substance. You'd better I think convince us of it at once, as in all probability Owen is near you now."

Parlati involuntarily started up. "I know

know not what you mean," said he, "unless you have leagued with the devil to bring him here," and he looked around with eagerness. "I thought, sir," said Fitzallan, "you did not admit of either devil, or God." "I am not disposed," answered Parlati, "to enter into a controversy on such damned nonsense as that, and shall beg leave to wish you a good night." So saying, he rose up and attempted to leave the table; but, whether he really saw Owen, or was afraid he should, was not known; but, as he turned round, he started and fell back senseless against the table, whilst the form of St. Prie glided through the room with great velocity. "We shall be familiarized to this soon," said Price, "though it is a little disagreeable now," and his hands trembled with fear.

Part of the company was engaged

in restoring Guiverat, and the remainder got round Parlati, but nothing could move Price: he sat as still as his fears would let him, but the chair literally shook under him. He tried several times to take up the goblet, to drink, but, with the greatest terror, drew back his hand again, and gazed at Parlati. Father Gregory, who had observed the motions of Price, desired him to go to his room, to fetch a case of instruments that lay upon the table, that he might open a vein, as he thought neither of his companions would recover without it. "I cannot find my way thither," said Price, "have you none about you? I thought you generally carried them." "I do so," said the father, "but I happen not to have them now, and, I beseech you, go."—"I cannot indeed, father; I feel giddy; there is such a damnable smell of brimstone, my head runs round." "How can you fear brimstone,

brimstone, or any thing else, when you see your two friends incapable of helping themselves?"—"No matter for that; if you had Owen so near you as I have, I think you would have been giddy too." "Be it so," said the captain; "I will fetch them, father;" and he immediately went and brought them. They opened a vein to each; but it was a considerable time before they recovered.

Price shook with fear, at every motion made by the wind on the stairs, which were near where he sat. He would turn his eye on Parlati, then on Guiverat, and then rapidly return it towards the wine, for which he longed, but had not courage to taste, lest his hand should be arrested as Parlati's had been. When the blood began to run, they soon recovered, and Guiverat desired they would assist him to bed.

Parlati opposed it, saying, He would rather sit up; at least, he should not like to go to bed till he was drunk. "Why not for once," said Price, "go to bed sober? for, the devil take me, if I would touch a glass more to night, though I am confounded dry at this moment." "But I will drink," said Fitzallan, "and I dare say the captain will likewise." "Certainly," answered he, and immediately drank to the company. This put Price in spirits; the captain handed a large goblet of wine to him; he accepted it with great readiness. "I can take it from your hand," said he, "and, when I venture to deny the devil again, may he serve me such another trick as he has done my friend. He drank heartily, then filled it and offered it to Parlati. At first, he refused it; but, being urged, he desired it might be held for him by the captain, as he could not hold it himself

himself on account of his arm. They pretended to believe what he said, and held it to him, though it was evident his fear overcame his strength. Guiverat made the same request and precisely from the same motive.

When the wine began to operate, they threw off their terrors, and joined in conversation; but their eyes were continually wandering about the room. At last, one of the company asked Parlati What made him faint away, it was so much like a woman! "I know not," answered he, "but I believe it was owing to a sulphureous smell that surrounded us, as that devilish figure made its appearance." Guiverat asserted the same, though it was not observed by the rest of the company.

A long conversation ensued, respecting what they had seen; but, as the

wine got into their heads, they grew courageous. The captain then proposed their going to bed, which was acceded to and they departed. The father, bidding them good night, said he would recommend to Parlati to have less confidence in his own courage, and more in what he had said to him. To this he made no reply. The three heroes, however, had not sufficient temerity to go to their different apartments; but with one consent, betook themselves to the same room, and there, without undressing, laid themselves down to rest; but not till they had lighted up candles enough to illumine the whole choir of an abbey, wisely concluding that the more light they had, the less inclination supernatural beings would have to visit them. Fitzallan and the captain had the curiosity to watch them, and highly entertained they were with their cowardly boasting,

till

till they lay down, and then they retired to their own rooms.

Fitzallan regarded his poor servant with pity; he tried to make him sensible of his being near him, but he was wholly regardless of every thing. Passive to the last degree, he took every thing that was offered him, but never attempted to move from the bed. One of the people had been left with him, and continued in the room during the night. In the morning, the captain came and said Parlati was in a high fever, owing, they thought, to the large quantity of wine he had drank; and Price and Guiverat were not much better; for, they were playing all manner of antics. Parlati was praying, raving and cursing, by turns. Price busied himself in running about the room, in the greatest terror, as if pursued by something; and Guiverat sat

fixed, as if chained to the bed, making the most horrid grimaces, throwing out his hands, as if to keep something from touching him, and then trying to repeat his paternoster; but it was so long since he had learnt it, and had made so little use of it since, that he seemed to remember but very little of it.

"Your account of Guiverat," said Fitzallan, "puts me in mind of an old reprobate, that lived near my father's, who was exactly the character of one of those; always boasting of his courage, and contempt of every thing that related to a future state. This man my companions and I had taken a violent dislike to; and, one time, when we were from college, at the vacation, we determined to put the old fellow's courage to the proof, and see whether he was as regardless of God and the devil

as

as he pretended to be: for which purpose, we got the head of a dead ass, into the eyes of which we put some pulvis fulminans; the mouth we stuck wide open, and filled it with wet gunpowder, among which we placed some India crackers; the outside we pitched, and in the ears we put two pieces of candle; we then washed it all over with phosphorus, and fastened it to a bullock's chain.

"He was much affected with the gout, and frequently sat up for days together, in a large chair, before the parlour fire, from which he was incapable of stirring, unless moved by his servants. During one of those fits, we took advantage of a very stormy night, the latter end of December, when he was in a violent paroxism of pain and rage, to mount a ladder, and, from the top of the chimney, three of us let down

down the head, while the rest watched the fun below. Those that were upon the top were to make use of several unintelligible words, and draw the head up and down occasionally. Up we mounted, and down we sent the head, just at the moment when he had broke a decanter over the head of his servant, and was fervently sending himself, the poor fellow, and his whole family pell mell to the devil. On the first letting down the head, it happened to rest on a curve of the chimney; but a sudden jerk of the chain precipitately sent it souse upon the fire. The phosphorus instantly caught and the head displayed a most terrific appearance. We amused ourselves by drawing it up and letting it down, the old man making all the efforts in his power to get from his seat, all the while praying 'Our Father which art in Heaven—Mary, Mary, the devil's a come'—He could not

not proceed a word farther in the Lord's prayer. Some of the servants entered; they were as much frightened as their master, and, in spite of all his prayers and entreaties to them, not one would advance to move him from the spot; and, when they heard the explosion from the pulvis fulminans, and repeated discharge of the crackers, they all quitted the house and ran in the greatest disorder towards the town, alarming every one they met, and in a short time there was a rabble rout of some hundreds, making towards the house, the old man all the time praying as far as 'Our Father which art in Heaven,' but no farther could he proceed, and the prayer ended in 'Mary, Mary, the devil is come.'

"When we found the rout approaching, we thought proper to descend, hide the ladder and join them; but, when

when we entered the room, though we could hardly bear the stench of the various combustibles with which the head had been decorated, we could not help being nearly convulsed with laughter, at the grotesque appearance of the old man. In his fright, he had contrived to raise his legs upon the table; his bottom remained in the chair; his night-cap had fallen off, and some of the light stuff and paper which held the gunpowder had been blown out, and pitched upon his head; the table, and all round the fire place was covered with it. The perspiration was running from him in copious streams, while the fire ashes, which the explosion had forced over him, had begrimed his face, head and cloaths, in a most luxuriant manner. His mouth was full of dirt, his teeth chattered, and his whole appearance bespoke at once the greatest terror and confusion.

"We

"We all pretended to be as much frightened, as those that were ignorant of the truth. 'Good God!' said one, 'this comes of denying God and the devil. Lord help me, sir, did I not always tell you, that, when you were wishing yourself at the devil's, he actually would come and fetch you away one time or other? Well! now, I hope you will have better thoughts.' 'Aye,' said another, 'if he could but have prayed in the Lord's prayer, the devil would have gone away, and not staid to make all this dreadful dirt, and rout, and covered you all over with filth. Lord help me, if you had not been such a reprobate, this would never have happened.'

"Whilst they were pouring upon him their rebukes, he was imploring them to move him away from where he was, and he would be sure in future to learn

learn to pray. He religiously kept his word, and, from that time to his death, which happened about two years after, he was never known to mention the name of the devil. We all of us kept the secret, till he died, and then we mentioned it. From that occurrence, I have ever since been led to conclude, that those who pretend to be the least afraid of hell, are in most danger of it, and that is the case with those three. There is something particularly bad, I think, in Price and Parlati; were they the particular friends of Owen?"

"Yes," said the captain; "but I think it would be best for the father to go to them; it will be a very unfortunate affair to have this man taken to Bononi, in a state that will require great attention being paid to him; besides, he is one of those that must declare which party he will attach himself to.

This

This year, I am informed, is the grand inauguration, which is once in three years; but we will fetch father Gregory." They went, and found him with Vashti, who had foolishly enough been informed by Joseph of what had been seen the last night. The father found it a very difficult matter to persuade her to stay till Michael was sent away, but she at last consented.

They then went to Parlati's room, and found them all three more quiet, except Price. The father said, that nothing material was to be apprehended, as the fever, he thought, would subside, when the fumes of the wine were evaporated. Price was swearing, in a most diabolical manner, at Parlati and Guiverat, about something known only to themselves. The father desired they would all betake themselves to rest, as they seemed to want it, and the shortness

shortness of the time they had to stay at the palace would not admit of their trifling, there being so much for them all to do, as the accounts must be settled for some days previous to their departure. "You may talk what you please, father," said Price; "but, if I am to be haunted by that damned Owen, I shall not be able to do any thing." "I thought," said the captain, "you had, by this time, chased away such idle visions from your head. Surely you have slept since." "Yes," answered Price, "slept, with a vengeance: the devil take me if I sleep here again, to be waked out of my rest by that cursed hideous-looking rascal, chasing me about. Why does not he stick close to Parlati? What does he want of me? He knows very well it was his doings; I only advised him to do it; but I did not assist." "Assist at what?" asked the captain sternly.

"No

"No matter what," said Price; "'twill all come out, I suppose, when we take our journey."

Neither Guiverat, nor Palati, spoke one word; but it was evident they feared something. They were, at last, prevailed upon to go to bed, and told that when they were wanted they should be called. The captain, the father, and Fitzallan, went, as soon as breakfast was over, to prepare for Michael's being removed, as well as poor Vashti. They were both sent off that evening, under the care of Joseph, and five of the community, who were to return immediately, as soon as they were placed under proper care, and Vashti was reconciled to Joseph's leaving her. They came back in five days.

Price and the others were employed in getting every thing ready for the distribu-

distribution of the lots, the tenth of which was regularly set aside for the church. They had not been disturbed by any appearance, since the night of their return. In the morning of the ninth day, the whole of the property, as divided into shares, had been taken into the great room, for each one to take his separate allotment of what he was to have, before the whole was consigned to the general mass, to be disposed of at Naples, for the general good of the community. It was between one and two at noon; the whole of the company were present. The portion belonging to Owen and St. Prie were placed by themselves, and were to be added to that appointed for the church. The day was fine and serene, and they were about to order the whole of it to be packed up, and got ready for removing in the evening, when the doors that led from the south

wing

wing of the gallery were heard to open, and fasten again with great violence. The sky began to be overcast, and every appearance of an approaching storm succeeded. The noise of the different doors increased; the thunder rolled at a distance; the room they were in became dark by the impending clouds; the rain poured in torrents; vivid flashes of lightning followed each other in quick succession, and the whole fabrick began to tremble.

The captain proposed to leave the room and go into the park; but it was opposed in the most strenuous manner by the members who were present at the pavilion scene. The storm appeared to be more violent by far than that they had experienced before. The thunder, which was at first at a distance, now broke over them with terrific violence. A tremendous crash was heard,

heard, as if the whole of the building was tumbling to its base. Blue sulphureous flames descended in columns down the stairs; in a few moments, the whole room appeared one vast sheet of liquid fire; groans that pierced the air and filled every soul with horror were heard approaching. "I can no more," said father Gregory; "this is more than human nature can sustain, and not be certain from whence it proceeds. I will go and be satisfied; those who have nothing to dread follow me."

Very few indeed were disposed to do this. Fitzallan, the captain, two Neapolitans, and a Swiss gentleman, arose to go. They advanced towards the stairs — the groans increased. They attempted to ascend, but were violently opposed by some invisible hand. "In the name of that God, whom I worship

and

and adore," said the father, "I will go." He was preparing, with his companions, to ascend, when the dreadful group of demons they had seen at the pavilion descended in wild uproar down the stairs. From this horrid sight, even father Gregory drew back; but, with great presence of mind, advanced to those at the table, and bid them trust in that God, who alone could preserve them from every danger. He lifted his hands to Heaven, and earnestly entreated its protection. The demons chased with whips the forms of Owen and St. Prie around the room. Three times did they go this hellish circuit; then stopped at the lots that were set apart for the church; they instantly began to scatter them to all parts of the room; one minute, it would appear as if sheets of fire were consuming them; the next, the fiends would seem to drag Owen and St Prie through the flames, whilst

their backs were lacerated with stripes; the groans that issued from their lips, as the demons exercised their cruelty, rent the hearts of all present. Twice three times more, in sheets of fire, they chased the wretched victims around the room, while the thunder, in tenfold fury, shook the fabrick to its foundation. This done, they ascended up the stairs in the same tumultuous manner as they had descended.

It was a considerable time, before even the father was capable of speaking. He offered up fervent thanks to Heaven, that none had received any personal injury; then intreated them to endeavour to recover from their alarm, and immediately prepare to leave the place, to which, he said, he hoped not one amongst them would ever feel a wish to return, since he was certain that the Almighty, justly offended at the crimes which

which had been committed there, wisely thought it was only a fit residence for the damned. They all uniformly agreed in the same opinion, and said they would instantly prepare to depart, whenever he should be ready to command them.

The moment the fiends had left the room, and the groans were no longer heard, the thunder ceased; the sun again put forth its cheering beams, and all nature recovered from its former mild serenity. Each, encouraged by returning light, ventured to observe the room, not doubting but that every thing had been burnt, even to the cloaths they had on; but, on examination, not a single article had received the slightest injury; all was in the same position as when they were first alarmed; and, though they had, as they imagined, seen every thing pass

through the flames, yet not a single article was injured. This circumstance surprised them; for, it was impossible that all should be deceived.

Parlati, Price, and Guiverat, represented statues of despair; they had not spoke one word, but gazed with distracted looks towards the stairs. The father and the captain awakened them from their stupor, by taking a hand of each, and asking why they were more affected than any one else, especially as they had so often spoke so vehemently against supernatural appearances. No answer was made by either. Parlati burst into tears, and sobbed like a woman. Astonishment sat on the features of every one; they all forgot their terrors, and crowded round him. He wept bitterly for some time; then, turning to the father, he said: "Have you not promised to those

those that repent, pardon and forgiveness?" "I have," answered father Gregory; "I bear the commission of a dying saviour to do so, provided the penitent confesses his sins, and, with an humble and contrite heart, kneels and supplicates for mercy, before the throne of the most high God. To the prayers of such his ears are ever open, and his hands are ever extended to succour and preserve them."

"But, perhaps," said the unhappy wretch, "there are crimes committed by man, which to forgive would call the justice of God in question, if there is such a being as a God." "To doubt his being," replied the father, "would be impious indeed, and I can scarcely believe there are men capable of so vile a crime: whatever they may utter with their lips, their hearts acknowledge a God, whose power no human being can

withstand." "I believe it, father," said he, while the tears paced each other down his cheeks; "oh! if there is mercy to be obtained, teach me, in pity, teach me how I shall attain it; for I have sinned, greatly sinned, and I fear there can be no mercy left for me."

"Why fear it?" said the good man; "if you sincerely and truly repent of your sins, though they were as scarlet, yet shall they be as white as snow. Turn with sincere penitence to the footstool of the eternal Being who called you into life; make a full confession of your sins, with a firm resolution to offend no more; and I have not the least doubt, when the Almighty God is convinced that your penitence is sincere, that he will pour the balm of comfort into your wounded heart, and bid your troubled spirit be at peace."

"Hear

"Hear me then, father," said Parlati, "in the presence of men, and in the presence of that God, whom I have so often derided, hear me make a confession of the blackest crimes.

"I was born at Rome; my father boasts his descent from a Patrician family, under the reign of Tiberius. He prided himself more on this, than the great wealth he possessed. I was his only child, and, as such, received an education suitable to the rank I was to hold in life. Indulged by my parents to excess, before I had attained my fifteenth year, I was capable of executing any thing, however bad, that would tend in any shape to gratify my passions. Complaints were frequently brought to my parents of my enormities; I received a partial chiding, and it was thought of no more. At seventeen, I went with my family to Venice,

to be there during the carnival. In this place of riot and debauchery, I became an adept in every species of vice. I had not been there above a fortnight, when I caused a young gentleman, whose sister I had seduced and abandoned, to be assassinated, because he threatened revenge. A short time after that, I got acquainted with the wife of a merchant, the mother of five children. She pleased me; I made her offers; they were rejected with contempt. Tired at a repulse I did not expect, I soon found means, through the contrivance of an Englishman, of the name of Sarel, who, in his own country, was what they call an attorney, to get the merchant confined, under a feigned action for debt. A man fit for my purpose, he soon procured, and the debt was sworn to by him. The wife was placed within my power; but, contrary to my expectation, she rejected all

all my offers, spurned me with indignation, and threatened me with the civil power.

"Enraged to madness, at finding myself disappointed, I hastened to consult the wretch that had advised the measure. Hardened in wickedness himself, he soon found the fellow he had employed, ready to do every thing he should propose. He advised to have all their property seized on, and sold, and to turn the children helpless into the street. It was done; I caused a report to be circulated that the mother was gone to France with a gentleman. This was conducted in such a manner, as to gain general belief. The children fled to the prison, to their father, who, overcome with this accumulated misery, sunk under it, and, in two days after, breathed his last. The wife, through the officiousness of one of the people

that attended her, was informed of the whole; and, when I came to her the next day, after upbraiding me with cruelty, and every epithet which my villainy deserved, she darted towards the door. I got between her and it, when, with a quickness that beggars all description, she struck me down and effected her escape from the house. She flew like lightning through the streets, till she reached the place where her husband had been confined.

"Here she found a confirmation of her sorrows. Her children, the eldest about thirteen, had been taken in, out of charity, by a gentleman who knew the father and valued him. To this gentleman's house she went; but, instead of being received as an oppressed and virtuous woman, she was treated with the utmost contempt. She listened with composure to what they said, but

but the manner in which she was treated roused her spirit, to regard them with that disdain with which they treated her, and she requested to have the children restored to her, scorning to owe an obligation to a man, who could listen to reports propagated by her enemies, without once examining whether they were true or false. She received her children, and, without a single place to lay her head in, or money to procure a morsel of bread, she wandered to a distant part of the town, where, in an obscure house, she obtained a lodging.

"The next day, she went to several of her acquaintance; they all shunned her, and, at night, she returned in the greatest misery. The woman of the house observed her distress, as she entered, and, with great humanity, asked whether she could render her any ser-

vice. The manner in which she addressed her spoke comfort to her wounded soul, and, without any disguise, she imparted to her, her real situation. The poor woman, who had felt the keenest distress herself, pitied and consoled her; advised her to place her hope in God, and wait the rest, and not to grieve, but exert herself for her children; and, if she was willing to learn to manage the raw silk for the weavers, she would procure for her as much as herself and the three eldest children could do. The offer was embraced, and, in two days, she comprehended enough of the business to attempt to work for the trade. The children soon acquired a knowledge of it, so as to be able to gain more than was expected. In this manner she determined to continue, till the return of her brother from the West Indies.

"In

"In the mean time, my faithful emissary was not remiss in his search after her; but, having gone to an obscure part of the town, bearing another name, and never being seen out, she eluded his vigilance. The merchants at Hamburg, with whom her husband had concerns, were at last apprised of what had happened to their correspondent, and directly addressed a letter to the English consul, stating their surprise at the transaction, and saying they had considerable effects belonging to the merchant in their hands, and advised him to set on foot an enquiry, respecting the legality of the demand, as the gentleman whose name had been made use of to complete the diabolical scheme, was wholly unacquainted with it; for, instead of the house at Venice being indebted to them, theirs was indebted to him; and, as there was a great mystery hung about the whole transaction, he

he wished him to investigate it for the sake of the children.

"As soon as the consul received the letter, he applied to the courts of law, to obtain particulars. From thence he learnt, that a notary belonging to the mercantile court had, under bond security, taken possession of the property belonging to the merchant, and disposed of it for his employer. The necessary documents authorising such sale were shewn him. Satisfied thus far, he went to the notary. From him he learnt, that what he had done was by the instructions of Sarel, who pretended to be agent of the Hamburg merchant, and every thing he had done was by his advice; the same man had, as agent, received the monies arising from the sale of the effects. The merchant, he said, had he lived, would no doubt have soon settled the business; but

but he was taken off so quick, that it was supposed he had some poison given him, as the people of the house where he died said he looked as if he had. This report was true, as Sarel had caused it to be given him by a jew, whom he had bribed for six ducats, the day after he was confined. This stratagem he exulted in, as it secured him from detection. I furnished him with money to do it.

"The consul, upon this information, caused Sarel to be apprehended, at a time when he thought himself secure, and when he was busy in a scheme to find the lady out. I heard of it within an hour after he was taken, and not doubting but he would implicate me, I fled. The event justified my fears; he was no sooner apprehended, than he accused me as the person who had employed him; and, notwithstanding he had

had himself suggested the means of putting the lady into my power, and taking her husband, yet he laid the whole blame on me, in hopes to obtain a pardon; but, as the affair made much noise, and rewards were offered to apprehend me, or any accomplice, the jew, to obtain the reward, and under a promise of pardon, discovered the truth of his being employed by Sarel to administer the poison, which he had done. As soon as the evidence of this fellow was known, the accusation of me was but slightly attended to. Sarel suffered upon the wheel, and the jew was sent to the galleys. The lady and her children were not discovered till some months after, when they were restored to their possessions. When I found the search after me was given up, I ventured among my friends again; no notice was taken of me, and I went on in the same career as before.

"About

"About a year after this, I saw at an assembly, in Florence, a lovely young woman, who, I learnt, was soon to be united to an Englishman of good family, who was recently returned from abroad, where he had been for some years. The match was made to unite two families, whose sole heirs they were. I saw the gentleman several times; I envied his approaching happiness, and racked my imagination to invent something that might protract their union. He was one of the most accomplished and deserving of his nation. His parents regarded him with ethusiastic fondness, and looked forward to this marriage, as the summit of their happiness. I had planned many things; but they all failed, and the more I saw of the lady, the more determined I became to possess her. At length, an opportunity offered, that bid fair to crown my wishes.

"The

"The day was approaching, that was to give happiness to all but me. The gentleman was hiring several servants for the occasion; among the rest, he wanted one for himself. A thought struck me, that if I could disguise myself, so as not to be known, I might, through my own recommendation, obtain the place myself. The thought was no sooner suggested, than I set about to accomplish it. I told the gentleman that I could recommend him a man, whose fidelity I would answer for. I was desired to send him. My dress was such as prevented discovery; I was hired, and ordered to take my place in three days. In the mean time, I gave out that some very particular business called me to Vienna; I took leave of the family, and at the appointed time, entered on my service. I had no fixed plan to pursue, any farther

ther than being determined to hazard every thing, rather than see them united.

"The first and second day I passed in the most painful anxiety of what to fix on; a thousand schemes crowded on my brain, which were dismissed as soon as formed. I was awkward at my business; but that amiable man excused me, saying he hoped I should soon get more expert. As the day drew nearer, I became like one mad. At last, an idea rushed like lightning on my mind, and I resolved to execute it. This was no less than to dispatch my master, reassume my own character, and marry the lady; but I determined not to put the first part of my design into practice, till the morning fixed on for the marriage. The day previous to it a large party of friends were assembled at the hotel of the lady's father, where my master

master was to sleep that night. I planned every thing in my head, and resolved to trust no one with my design. At the hour of rest, the gentleman desired I would awake him early, and prepare every thing belonging to his dress, before I went to bed, which I obeyed. In the morning, though determined to effect my purpose, I found I had not courage to enter his room till rung for, when, as if roused by a sudded impulse, I snatched up a brace of pistols, properly loaded, threw his linen over them, and entered the room. 'I thought,' said he, 'I had desired you to call me early.' 'You did sir,' said I; 'but it is indeed early enough now.' 'Give me my linen,' said he, and he raised himself up in the bed. I handed it to him with one hand, and with the other fired the pistol. The ball went through his heart, and he instantly fell back. I placed the discharged pistol

pistol in his hand, and laid the other on his pillow; then sprung like lightning from the room, and gave the alarm.

"The gentlemen then in the house crowded to the apartment; care was taken to keep the lady from being informed of the catastrophe, and I appeared in all the agonies of grief. I was interrogated; my answer was, That, as I entered the room, my master asked me for his linen. I went up to the bedside, to assist him in putting it on, when he drew a pistol from under the pillow, put it to his breast, and fired before I had power to prevent him. My story was believed, as the pistol was found in his right hand. Every idea that could be formed for his being guilty of so rash an act was canvassed over and over again; but they could fix on nothing more than that.

that some prior engagement had urged him on to do it, as he thought he could not recede with honor from one so long since entered into, as that with the lady he was to have been that day united to. Means were found to reconcile her to the loss she had sustained, which was set down to his want of a proper affection for her; but his parents never recovered the shock they had received, and both fell victims to their love for him,—the mother, in less than three months,—the father, six weeks after.

Upon my being discharged, a few days after the funeral, the whole of my master's cloaths were given to me, and one year's wages. In his cabinet was found the picture of the lady; that was also given me, and I left the house, elated with the success of my scheme, not in the least doubting but I should be

be equally happy with the original, when time should have blunted the first transports of her grief. I easily found a purchaser for every thing that had been given me, and hastened to take upon me my own character.

"As soon as this was done, I went to pay my visit of condolence; I was received as before, and flattered myself that a short time would enable me to make my intentions known; my family and fortune were such as would not be rejected, if I gained the affections of the lady. Near seven months elapsed, before I could venture to make an offer of my hand, when I had the mortification to find it peremptorily refused, she chusing to remain single. I found it impossible to see her, as she persisted in receiving no company. Tired out with fruitless attempts, I quitted Florence, and again ventured

to

to Venice, but stayed not there; I went to Naples. Here I entered into every excess, and attached myself to a set of young men, as abandoned as myself. They were professed atheists, and gloried in the commission of crimes, that would make any man, who had the least idea of a future state, start back with horror. I was happy to be the associate of men, whose way of thinking coincided with my own, and which served to lull alarming conscience to rest; for, if there was no hereafter, what had I to fear? Full of this persuasion, I hurried precipitately from one enormity to another, continually drowning thought in riot.

"My income was much too small for my expences, and I was one day meditating, in what manner I should procure a temporary supply, when my servant entered, and said, two gentlemen

men wanted to speak with me. It was Price and Guiverat, whose finances were in the same state as my own. They came to tell me, they had discovered that the king's secretary and two ladies, slightly attended, would return to Naples that night, and have with them a considerable sum of money, and if I and Guiverat would ride up to the carriage, Price and four others would manage the servants. I instantly entered into the scheme, and we set off to put it into execution. It was agreed, that, if any resistance was made, immediately to dispatch those within, while Price and his companions were to do the same by the servants. We got proper disguises, and set out for the destined spot.

"It was half an hour before the carriage came up—We stopped it. The ladies, for there were three, shrieked, the

secretary called aloud to his servants, they approached, and Price shot the foremost of them, then called out to me to dispatch. I bid Guiverat fire, while I held my pistol to the breast of one of the ladies. His ball entered the gentleman's side, and he fell back against the pistol in my hand; it went off, and shot the lady dead. We then instantly set about stripping the company of what they had about them; the sum was not exaggerated. As soon as we had obtained the booty, we hastened from the spot, returned to Naples, and shared it.

"The next day, the officers of justice were dispersed in all directions to apprehend us, with a full description of our persons, (as they then appeared,) The gentleman was not dead, but the lady was, and two of the servants. Secure from detection, we mixed in the very

very companies that lamented them, and made an additional number to those that commiserated their fate. Every person was lost in astonishment, that the perpetrators of such a deed should remain undiscovered, notwithstanding the diligent search that was made after them.

"As long as the money lasted, we were happy; but that being soon dissipated, we ventured again. But in this we were defeated, a party of horsemen coming up at the moment, when we had stopped two carriages. Four of our party were taken; but Price, Guiverat and myself escaped, and in this society took shelter. What enormities we have been guilty of since, I shall not repeat, as they are well known to the community. The oath that bound me to a strict observance of its laws is what I have not, or ever meant

to violate, and that which binds us to give a true account of our transactions, when absent from the palace, has been uniformly observed by me. And now, father, you have heard my confession, do you think it possible that a wretch like me can ever hope for mercy, since the crimes I was guilty of, before I came here, were more than sufficient to consign me to eternal torments; for, now I am convinced there are such: among the fiends that I saw just now, I plainly discovered two of my former companions, and the intimate friends of Owen; they held the whips and lashed him and St. Prie round the room."

Here the tears streamed again down his face, which affected all, but Price; he was too much hardened in wickedness to feel. "These tears," said father Gregory, "augur a heart sensible

of its crimes, and a desire to become a true penitent. If so, there is yet mercy in Heaven for you; but, without incessant prayer, fasting and humiliation, I will not venture to say that the just God, who abhors all crimes, and detests all sinners, will grant you pardon. Let, as I have told you already, your penitence be sincere, and you need not doubt the bounty of the Most High, who is ever more ready to give than to receive. Be convinced of this great truth, That there is a God, who, at the last day, will pass a just and righteous judgment upon all the most trifling of his creatures. There is not a single action of ours, whether good or bad, but what is noted by him. Millions have lived in error like yourself, but I trust and hope few, very few, have died in it. For, we shall most assuredly find in a future state a place of rewards and punishments, and the scene which

we have witnessed to day is, I think, a sufficient proof of it. Those that have lived amidst the commission of the greatest crimes, and those who, in spite of the alarms of conscience, have dared to die without repentance, or owning the power of God, a power which even pagans, in all ages and in all climes, have admitted, will share the same fate. And that he, at times, deputes his angels to warn mankind of their danger, and to rouse them to a sense of their guilt, by permitting disembodied spirits to take upon them the form of corporeal substances, I am firmly persuaded. I am likewise certain, that supernatural appearances are allowed by the Almighty; and, as a proof of my assertion, that I am not the only one that believes in such things, I shall just mention some lines of the great English poet, Milton, when treating on such a subject:

'Millions

'Millions of spirits walk the world unseen;
Both when we wake and when we sleep.
These execute their airy purposes
And works of love or enmity fulfil.'

'There are angels,' says another author of the same nation, 'who are ministering spirits, sent forth to those to whom the Almighty is pleased to communicate his will, in the special affairs of this world. Instances of this nature are innumerable in the sacred volume. These angels assume bodies, in the likeness of human nature, and are capacitated to speak in the language of men. A very awful messenger of this kind we have represented in the book of Job, which is no inconsiderable proof of the real existence of apparitions. The obscurity of this image conspires to render the description truly tremendous.

"In thoughts from the visions of the "night, when deep sleep falleth upon

" men, fear came upon me and trem-
" bling, which made all my bones to
" shake. Then a spirit passed before my
" face. The hair of my head stood up.
" It stood still; but I could not dis-
" cern the form thereof. An image was
" before mine eyes; there was silence,
" and I heard a voice. Shall mortal man
" be just before God?"

God himself is a spirit, a being immaterial and immortal. Angels and the souls of men are immaterial, and made immortal by the great Supreme Being. We are taught that many of those angels fell from their first state of innocence, and were removed, from the realms of happiness, to the mansions of misery. These evil spirits are ever meditating the ruin of mankind, and employ all their power to seduce human souls from the paths of duty. How far they have proved successful his-

history affords a melancholy representation.

"Satan is said, in the second book of Chronicles, to have tempted David to number his people, thereby trusting more to an arm of flesh, than in the living God. The dread consequence of that was the sudden destruction of a great number by pestilence. Something like this is represented by Homer, in his first Iliad, where Apollo, by a pestilential air, deals death to thousands in the camp of Achilles. Virgil, likewise, in his Æneid, beautifully supports my assertion, where he says:

Ye subterranean gods, whose awful sway
The gliding ghosts and silent shades obey;
O Chaos! hear, and Phlegethon profound,
Whose solemn empire stretches wide around;
Give me, ye great tremendous powers, to tell
Of scenes and wonders in the depths of hell.

Gi[illegible]

Give me your mighty secrets to display,
From those dark realms of darkness to the day—
Obscure they went through dreary shades, that led
Along the waste dominions of the dead;
As wandering travellers in woods by night,
By the moon's doubtful and malignant light.

DRYDEN.

"I could produce many other instances of revelation by spirits. Another English writer, in a much admired work, called the Spectator, says: 'They are more excusable, who believe in apparitions, than those who reject all extraordinary revelations of this kind, and, contrary to the reports of all historians, sacred and profane, ancient and modern, and to the traditions of all nations, think the appearance of spirits fabulous and groundless. Could we not give ourselves up to the general testimony of mankind, we should to the revelation of particular persons, who are living, and whom we know and cannot distrust in other matters of fact.'

'Lucre-

'Lucretius himself (though, by the course of his philosophy,' says the same author, 'was obliged to maintain that the soul did not exist separate from the body) makes no doubt of the reality of apparitions, and that men often appeared after their death.' Thus you see there are so many testimonies to prove it, that I hope the period will arrive, when mankind in general will be persuaded of the truth of these observations.

"This is not the first time I have taken opportunities to inculcate the same belief; but I have hitherto been laughed at: now I hope, since you have been convinced of its reality, that my opinions will have more weight. You must be persuaded I can have no interest in any thing I say, but what relates to your eternal good. To save a kindred soul from the jaws of hell,

and to defeat the purposes of malignant spirits, I would undergo any fatigue, misery and distress, that my feeble frame could support, so I had the happiness of seeing him made sensible of his errors, and ready to repose unlimited confidence in his God. If I could but draw one sinner from the paths of vice and folly, and get him to tread the road that leads to everlasting happiness, I should think I had not lived in vain; and, when I reached the confines of eternity, and met his soul in bliss, I should forget the miseries and insults I had met with in this world, and look up with fervent gratitude to the Supreme Being, who had thought proper, by calling me into existence, to make me an humble instrument of his glory. Let what I have said to you sink deep into your heart; and not only into *yours*, but also into the hearts of all here present, that the glory

glory of God may be manifest, and that my soul may rejoice in your salvation, which God of his infinite mercy grant."

The whole company joined in a fervent Amen; even the hardened heart of Price was affected. Parlati was overcome by the violence of his feelings, and appeared so very much agitated, that the father advised him to try to get some repose, and, when he was a little composed, to pour out his soul in prayer to God. The wretched man assented, and he was helped by his companions to his room. He laid himself down upon his bed, and some of the community continued with him. For many hours, he was in agonies of body and mind. They gave him an opiate; but it had no effect. Father Gregory was fetched; he prayed by him, in the most fervent manner; but it was some

hours

hours before he was calm enough to mind what was said to him. At last, he listened attentively, and, when the father asked him to join in the Lord's prayer, he did with great earnestness. This gave the father much pleasure, and he retired to rest, with a bright hope that his penitence was sincere.

It was late the next day, before they were assembled, the greater part of them being so much affected with what had happened. The father found his patient better than he could expect, but Guiverat's appearance bespoke an internal conflict, little inferior to that of Parlati. He spoke but little, was perfectly indifferent about every thing respecting their journey; but said he was certain he should be well enough to go, though his countenance plainly indicated the contrary. Price was not in the least affected with any thing, unless,

unless when they were all together. One of the company asked the father, Whether he thought they should again be visited before they left the palace. He answered, It was impossible to say; but he should hope not. "And so do I," said Price, and he cast an inquiry eye around the room, whilst his whole frame was agitated with fear. Fitzallan watched narrowly the movements of Guiverat, and was certain, from observation, that his fears would get the better of his reason, and he would be guilty of some rash act upon himself. The father desired the strictest attention might be paid to him, and not to permit him out of their sight for a moment.

They were now all bustle and hurry, to get ready for their departure. The different articles were all packed with the greatest expedition, as not one of them but what were eager to leave a

place

place subject to so much alarm. They found, upon examining their accounts, that the general stock in money and valuables amounted to full eighty thousand pounds. This was agreed to be parted equally amongst the whole community, as they thought they should not like to return there again. The presents for the church, and the lots belonging to St. Prie and Owen, were sent off for Naples immediately, and it was agreed that, as soon as those members returned, they were all to set off for Florence, as there wanted but a week of the time of being there. They returned the next day, and the whole company set out three hours after. The final division of the property was to be settled by the grand priest at Bononi.

At Naples, the carriages were waiting to take them, as every thing had been

been ordered the day before. The whole cavalcade proceeded onward, in three divisions; but they were all to meet at a certain house, at night, where beds had been ordered. The father took charge of one party, the captain of another, and Fitzallan and Joseph the third. In the first, were Parlati and Guiverat, and, immediately under the captain, was placed Price, who, as soon as he was got out of hell, as he called it, began to be as riotous and blasphemous as ever.

It was near evening when they came to a small village, a short distance from where they meant to remain the night, when Price stopped the driver, and swore he would not go any farther without a flask of wine. The captain endeavoured to dissuade him from it, as it would detain them behind the rest of the company, but he did not mind that,

that, he said; the wine he would have, and quitted the cabriolet for the purpose of getting some; none went in it but the captain and himself.

When he had drank his wine, and returned to the carriage, he started back. "What is the matter now?" said the captain, who was sitting in it, "Why don't you take your seat?" "How can I?" said Price; "Don't you see some person has got it?" "Not at all," said the captain, and he looked on the seat. "The wine has got up in your head; come in, and let us go on." He looked again and again into the carriage. "If I must come in," said he, "pray, take that seat I sat in, and let me have yours, as that is the only way to convince me there is no one there, though I'll be sworn I saw somebody just now." The captain thinking him disordered by drinking the wine fast,

fast, complied with his whim and changed his position. Price then entered, and they drove on; but they had not proceeded above half a league, when Price suddenly exclaimed: "Let me out, let me out," and made an effort to leave the carriage; but, seemed by his gestures to be prevented from doing it.

The captain was all amazement, and thought he had certainly drank more wine, than he could reasonably suppose any man could have done in so short a space of time. He therefore desired him to sit still, and try whether he could not go to sleep; but, turning, as he spoke, he saw the same two hands which had held the goblet, pressing tight the shoulders of Price, and, in a manner, pinioning him to the seat. The blood forsook his face, as he viewed him. "Father of mercies!" he exclaimed,

ed, "what is all this?" He attempted to call out to the postilion to stop; but, as he opened his lips to speak, the horses took fright, and set off with such rapidity, as to baffle the strength of the driver. They soon came up with the company and passed it with the velocity of an arrow.

They continued their rapid course, till, coming to a sharp angle of a wall, at the entrance of the town they were to stop at, the carriage was overturned, and shivered in a thousand pieces; the horses, freed from all restraint, ran like lightning forward, surmounting every obstacle. The noise they made, with the remnants of the harness which hung about them, drew numbers of the inhabitants to their doors. They were stopped, at length, by a vine-dresser returning from work. From their appearance, every one judged what had happen-

happened, and a great number set out towards the gate they had entered at, where they found, at no great distance, the captain, Price and the postilion, all apparently dead, surrounded by the fragments of the cabriolet. They raised them up, and were preparing to carry them to the inn, when the remainder of the company came up. They had pushed on with all the speed they could make, being lost in conjecturing what could occasion the horses to go on with such amazing rapidity. They feared some accident, and tried by every means possible to come up with them, but in vain.

They were all three conveyed to the inn, and surgeons sent for; but, upon examination, no limbs were broke—they were only stunned by the fall. They were each blooded and put to bed. In a short time the captain became sensi-

sensible, and asked Where he was, as well as Price. They informed him, and he said He did not find himself in the least hurt. Soon after, Price was heard raving like one mad, that They would take him away, and let him get out of the carriage, and a great deal more to the same purport, all of which was unintelligible to every one but the captain. The postilion was the most reasonable, and from him they learned in what manner the horses had taken fright. He said that something fleeted before them, like a sheet of fire, which he took to be lightning. When the gentleman cried 'Let me out, Let me out,' he thought, in all probability, he apprehended a storm of thunder, and did not like to go on; but, not seeing any thing again, he was about to ask Whether he must or must not stop, when he saw another flame, and something like the shape of a man in it.

At

At that, the horses took fright, and, though he strove with all his strength to rein them in, he found it impossible, and he was necessitated to let them have their way; and, when they reached the angle, he was unable to guide them round it; the consequence was, the carriage was overturned.

The whole company were rather surprised at the relation, and knew not what to make of the occurrence. The captain did not choose to give his thoughts upon the matter, lest the postilion should refuse to go on with them, and they had engaged him to the end of the second day's journey. He thought it best to attribute the ravings of Price to a disordered brain, arising from the too large quantity of wine he had drank; but he was determined to make the father acquainted with what he had seen. As soon, therefore, as

they

they were all arrived, he sent for him, and informed him of it, adding that the hands continued to hold Price, till they were overturned, and that he thought he saw St. Prie pass twice before the horses; but of this he was not certain.

The father was much hurt at the account, fearing they should be obliged to leave Price at the hotel, or have him conveyed onwards with a guard. Either way would be very disagreeable; but he thought it best to consult the members. Parlati and Guiverat were just as they were when they set out. The captain advised him not to mention what he had said till the next day; to this the father agreed; but, in the morning, they were surprised, at going into Price's room, to find all his fear vanished, and he swearing and laughing at all that had happened.

They

They then proposed setting off immediately. The captain would gladly have exchanged his companion for some other, but was unwilling to propose it, and, therefore, went on as before.

As they proceeded, Price sang, swore, laughed, and cried, by turns, alternately abusing the captain, calling him a coward, and, the next minute, praising his bravery, and saying what a good man he was, and how he would report him as such, when he came to Bononi. Then again he would say What a poltroon he was, not to strike off the hands that held him so damned close, but desired he would shew more courage when it came again, and assist him to send the devil away, for such he was sure it was, in the form of Owen. The captain began to think his brain was in reality disordered;

therefore, thought it most prudent to say as *he said*, and in this manner they continued during the journey.

Nothing more was seen, till the evening of their arrival at Florence; when they were altogether preparing for their attendance at Bononi. The presents destined for the priests had been sent two hours before, and they waited the return of the messenger, to go thither likewise, as the next day was that appointed for the inauguration. They were sitting at table; the father was in earnest conversation with Parlati, and Guiverat was attentively listening to the discourse, when Price suddenly jumped up from the table, and exclaimed: "Now, the devil take me, if those damned hellish looking scoundrels are not come here again! I tell you once for all, go to Parlati."

The whole company turned their eyes towards that part of the room to which he looked, and saw Owen, St. Prie, and three others standing in a line opposite to the chair of Price. They continued for some minutes in the same position; then moved towards the table, and encircled Price, over whom they scattered some light powder. The messenger entered at that moment, with orders to be at Bononi on the East (which was the name of the mansion to which the captain had been taken by the prince) in four hours from that time. Every thing was ready, and they set out, in a grand cavalcade of horsemen. They thought, as they left the room, that their distressing visitors would remain behind; but in this they were mistaken; for, the company were no sooner on horseback, than the same horrid forms were mounted also, and kept in a line with them.

Price, who had set out in a state of desperation, now tried to make his horse go on faster, in hopes of leaving them behind; but, in spite of every effort, the beast would not stir one step quicker than the horse which was beside him, on which sat Owen. To describe the terrors of this unhappy man would be impossible. When he found that all his endeavours to escape were fruitless, he would look at the captain, in a most supplicating manner, and evince by his gestures what horrors he was under; but fear, or something else, kept him silent, and the whole company were so likewise; a general panic pervaded all. The four other disembodied beings were at the head of the troop, and, as they advanced, flashes of fire darted round them, while one of them directed the rest; and, as if impelled by some unknown power, they implicitly followed the footsteps of the horse he rode. The

slow

slow and solemn manner in which they ascended the hill that led to the mansion, and the dead silence observed by every one, struck terror into the hearts of all; but not one of them had power to leave the rank he was in, or turn either to the right or to the left.

In this silent order, they reached the destined place; all of them alighted, and entered the great room allotted for them, without uttering a word. Price's face spoke a language that plainly said: 'If I could get from this damned company, the devil take me, if I would come here again, in spite of all the oaths that bound me to return.' They were detained in this room near an hour, the spectres still with them, when some music sounded at a distance. The loud and solemn tones arrested their attention. Again all was silent. The whole company seemed bound by

a spell; all eyes were turned on their awful companions, but none could make the least observation. At length, the music sounded again, but much nearer. Large folding doors, at the upper end of the room, were thrown open, and discovered an apartment similar to that the captain was in, when he took the oath, but much larger and illuminated in a style of beauty, that far surpassed every thing he had seen, or could conceive to be formed by the hand of man. Himself and the rest of the company were lost in wonder.

When the sounds struck full upon their ears, a smell of burning perfumes floated in the air; a grand chorus of heavenly voices chaunted, and, in a few minutes, two priests entered, followed by a long train of choristers dressed in white. Then followed three more priests, carrying palm branches. Then

came

came four young men, as they thought, dressed in a singular kind of loose robe, made in the Grecian style; a ray of glory seemed playing round their heads, and their whole appearance indicated something more than mortal. Then followed a long train of aged men, habited like the choristers, with countenances that bespoke at once the residence of every virtue. The train closed with ten men, bearing the offerings made to the priests; amongst them was what had been sent by the captain's company. The whole procession passed slowly round the room, whilst the most heavenly music sounded. They then arranged themselves on seats, facing the altar, on which the offerings were laid.

This done, the captain's company were ordered to attend the minor priest. They were conducted to his apartment,

when each gave in a sealed packet, and one for Fitzallan was delivered in by the captain. They seemed still to be deprived of the use of speech. The five immaterial beings that were with them were regarded by the priest with horror, mixed with pity. He advanced towards them, and waved a small ivory crucifix over their heads. He spoke a few words; they attended to him, and each held out his right hand, on which he looked with earnestness, then again waved the cross and drew back. They were separated from the rest of the company, who had long white robes, that entirely covered them, put on them by two attendants. This done, the priest advanced, and put into each one's hand a small piece of ivory, of the size of a ducat, took a palm branch, dipped it in some water, and sprinkled each of them with it, then said:

"May

"May he, who died upon the cross for the sins of all mankind, cleanse you from your sins, and teach you in what manner you can obtain eternal redemption, and enjoy, after this painful life is ended, everlasting happiness, in the realms of bliss and immortality!"

A choir of heavenly voices chaunted the response *Amen*, in which the whole company joined. The organ in full tone began to play; he waved the cross over their heads three times, then advanced to the door, and, with the cross, beckoned the company to follow. They did, and entered the grand room, whilst a divine hymn was chaunted by the choir. They took their seats on the right of those who sat facing the altar. They ventured to cast their eyes round, in search of Owen and his companions; they were not to be seen, but the captain disco-

vered, amongst the company that first entered, the prince and two others, whom he remembered to have seen take the oaths at the same time he did.

The hymn finished; the organ ceased; a darkness seemed to approach. Loud thunder rolled at a distance; lightnings flashed, and the lights, that before burnt so clear and so bright, were now dimmed, and gave only a very faint glimmer. At times, they were wholly obscured, and the company in total darkness. The mansion shook with the wild uproar of contending elements; sheets of liquid fire blazed round the room; sulphureous smoke enveloped the whole, and augured instant suffocation. The groans of wretches expiring in torments met their ears; the yells came nearer; they heard the lashes of whips, and, in a moment, all hell appeared as open to their

their view. Numberless fiends were seen driving, with unrelenting fury, the miserable victims, from one end of the horrid gulph to the other. The groans redoubled, and, in a few minutes, entered, writhing under the lash of their diabolical tormentors, the five which had accompanied them to the mansion.

Fitzallan, as soon as he beheld Owen, was overcome by the sight, and fell at the feet of father Gregory. He raised and supported him, assisted by the captain, who moved to his relief. In the mean time, the five were driven to the foot of the altar, round which they ranged themselves. Human nature shrunk back, appalled at the dreadful sight, and, though they abhorred their vices, yet felt pity and compassion for them. Not so their merciless tormentors; they were impatient again to renew

the punishment. As soon as they were on each side the altar, three priests dressed in black, drew near; they took from the altar five slips of paper; they broke the seals, and read aloud That he whose name was affixed had obeyed the summons he had received, and was then waiting the last commands of the community.

The whole company arose, except those that supported Fitzallan. The priest turned himself round; then, addressing the five that stood before him, said—"The crimes you stood accused of have occasioned your names to be erased from the list of this society; you are doomed, by the decrees of the most high God, to wander far from the seats of bliss; you are excluded this society, and he, whose judgment none can call in question, excludes you from Heaven. You have been summoned here

here by those who glory in obeying the will of Omnipotence, to shew a striking contrast, between the fate of those in the region of spirits, who have lived a life of virtue, and those who have lived a life of vice. You had all the same scene presented to your view, when you first became members amongst us. Blame not the decrees of Heaven; your crimes seal your doom; and may those who have been your associates in vice, who have not as yet paid the great debt of nature, but are here present, may they take warning by those sufferings they behold inflicted on you, to avoid the temptation that first ensnared you, but which you might have withstood, had you not suffered ungovernable passions to gain the dominion over you. You see your names erased from this book of frail mortality, and they have long since been erased in heaven."

The

The priest then took a large black book, which lay upon the altar, and drew a pen through the five names. He closed the book; the groans of the damned were heard again; the thunder rolled in wild, tremendous uproar; the lightning blazed with tenfold horror; the victims were driven from the altar; the mouth of hell was open to receive them; they were plunged headlong in, and, amidst a loud burst of thunder, the scene in a moment closed.

The bright beams of light again irradiated the room; the soft voice of the minstrels sounded; the organ's melodious tones again vibrated on the ear; again all was peace, harmony, and love.

Fitzallan had not recovered, though every assistance had been given, and the choristers were moving to the altar, before

before he shewed any signs of returning life. Their souls seemed to ascend in pious rapture to the throne of heaven. The whole assembly joined the extatic harmony, and, as the grand chorus sounded among the arches of the vaulted roof, Fitzallan recovered his senses. The sudden transition, from what he thought hell, to heaven, had nearly proved fatal for him a second time. He looked round in wild amazement; he was almost afraid to breathe, lest he should disturb the realms of happiness, to which he thought himself translated. Father Gregory, who stood near him, did not attempt to undeceive him; he thought it best to indulge his reverie.

The captain sought to read the countenance of Price, but was surprised not to see him among the company. Parlati and Guiverat were near the father

ther: their countenances bespoke the sincerest penitence. The captain was distressed, and mentioned to him that he saw not Price. "He has been overcome by his fears," said he; "if you look again, you will see the members busied in recalling him to life. I hope this sight will awaken in him a sense of his sins, though I much fear, notwithstanding the manner in which he is at present affected, there is but little hopes of seeing him a sincere penitent: he is, I fear, too deeply rooted in vice."

They were roused to attention by a new strain of music, much too seraphic to be mortal. Amazement sat on the face of every one. A dead silence ensued, as if afraid to disturb the angelic harmony. The room breathed ten thousand blooming odours.

The

The organ had ceased; the breath of angels was upon them; the priests, dressed in white, advanced towards the altar. The four heavenly forms they had noticed, when the choristers first entered, now approached, and placed themselves on each side of it. The choristers followed, and formed a line that extended from the altar to the door. Myriads of glories beamed around the four heavenly strangers, and the whole room was filled with celestial light, whilst, at a distance, the great concave of heaven opened, and heavenly spirits appeared ascending and descending along the vast expanse. Music, attended with the voices of thousands of immortal spirits, sounded and wrapt the soul in sweet elysium.

Price was recovered at the moment when this grand choir performed the hymn

hymn of gratitude to heaven. This scene affected him, and, in an agony of remorse, he exclaimed: "And must I, miserable sinner! be denied to enter that heavenly place! Oh! no, no; teach me, oh! teach me how to deserve it." He wrung his hands in anguish, and strove to ejaculate a short prayer.

The priest had taken the four slips of paper as before; he broke the seals, and read: "The complying with their engagement." The priest with reverence knelt before them, and offered up a fervent prayer of thanks to Heaven, for thus permitting mortals to view the transcendant brightness then before them, and to behold amongst them those who had once been their fellow sufferers, in the great work in which they were engaged, to bring back erring mortals to the paths of virtue, and, by contrasting the different states of

virtue and vice, after this painful life is ended, to alarm the sinner, to comfort the repenting proselyte, and encourage him to persevere in the pursuit of righteousness.

"To you," said he, "heavenly ministers of eternal goodness! we offer up our prayers and thanks, for all the services ye have rendered the members of this society. Your names, as registered in our earthly book, will ever be looked upon by us with awe and reverence. Though you are taken from all visible intercourse with us mortals, yet deign, with your celestial aid, to protect those who shall this night become members of our society. Strengthen them in all dangers, support them in all difficulties they may have to encounter, support the drooping spirits of the truly penitent, and teach them to repose with confidence

on

on the mercies of their God. You are now become ministering angels before the throne of grace. Ah! teach each mortal whom it may be your destiny to warn from the evil of his ways, that the paths of pleasure lead but to the grave, and that a death-bed repentance is not to be relied on. Many will be the trials of the group now present; but the Lord of life will, I trust in you, comfort and support them."

The priests ceased, and bowed reverently before the four; the music, which had been silent during the invocation, now again burst forth with redoubled harmony; the bright visions were now encircled in a heavenly cloud; the glory that beamed around them became more and more resplendent, until it increased too much for mortal sight to bear; the company bent their heads in adoration. The cloud expanded, and

and, amidst a burst of heavenly harmony, they vanished from their sight. The scene gradually closed, whilst the music died imperceptibly away, and left the wondering admirers lost in joy and rapture, each one rejoicing in the hope that they should one day be happy inhabitants of the blessed abodes they had beheld. Each one was determined to become a worthy member, and blessed the moment that first brought them to that seat of peace.

For some moments all was silent. The priests arose; their countenances were overspread with rays of the divinity, and they seemed to have imbibed immortal fervor. The eldest addressed them all in a speech of some length, pointing out to them the happy consequences of a life well spent. He drew a parallel between what they had seen and heard that night, and earnestly exhort-

exhorted them to let it sink deep into their hearts. "You are now," said he, "called together, to give in your account, in what manner the last year has been spent. This account, though strict, is not so exact as the one you must render up at the last day, where the secret actions of all will be known, and that which has been executed in darkness will be brought to light. I, therefore, charge you, in the name of the most high God, not to venture on your inauguration, unless you are fully determined to become sincere and ardent brothers. There is not one among us exempt from sin; but he that repents, and falls into the same crimes again, is tenfold worse than he that never repented at all, and is, in every respect, like a beast returning to wallow in the mire. Sorry I am indeed to find, that the number of the unhappy this year, exceeds those of the happy; but

I am led to hope, from the awful warning you have had, that this will be the last time I ever shall experience the piercing grief of knowing a fellow creature doomed to endless torments. I have one sincere and heartfelt pleasure to impart to you, that I do not find one member who has notified his wish to become inaugurated on the black list. There are some among you, whom I trembled to hear, three months ago, were ready for that awful ceremony; but the hand of Heaven has prevailed over the snares of hell; they are now, I trust, and hope, sincere penitents; as such, I shall be happy to receive them into the number of those, who live a blessing to themselves and to all around them. It gives inexpressible transport to my aged heart, to find this night will pass without a sacrifice, except what will be offered up by every grateful

grateful heart to the Supreme Being of Heaven and earth.

"The instructions you have all received, on your first entering this community, will, I hope, now be religiously observed. But to a select number is destined the completion of a work, in the execution of which you must encounter some disagreeable rebuffs, from the ministers of darkness, by whom you will be opposed; but, whilst you place a firm confidence in the protection of God, you need not fear what mortal or immortal may invent to distress you. Follow implicitly the directions of that good pastor you have hitherto had among you, and all will be well. Those that now suffer affliction shall suffer it no more, and those that are parted from their earthly friends shall again be united to them, and they will enjoy a foretaste of that happiness,

which

which is in store for those that do by every one as they would be done by.

"It will be required of those I have hinted at that they return to Ventoliene. There are some services for them to perform to the memory of the dead. Our fellow labourer in God, father Gregory, will receive instructions of what must be done, and it will be his duty to see it performed; that finished, you will, in the pleasure ever arising from the knowledge of doing good, derive that peace which is ever the companion of the righteous. The oaths you have alyeady taken must be renewed, and this is termed inauguration. You must now draw near and receive the sacrament."

This said, the whole company drew up, and formed a circle round the altar. The divine institution of our blessed

Saviour commenced; the bread and wine was hallowed by the good priests; that done, the oath was taken, and each confirmed it by the holy sacrament, and, in a manner similar to that observed by the protestants, it was administered to each individual. This pious ceremony over, the priest gave them his heavenly benediction; the organ sounded in lofty strains, whilst choristers sung: "Glory to God on high, on earth peace, and good will towards men."

Parlati, Price, and Guiverat, were presented severally, as men determined to become sincere penitents. They were received as welcome candidates for the crown of glory that fadeth not away. A general benediction was then bestowed on all, and the priests departed, attended by the choristers singing a grand chorus, in the same manner as

they

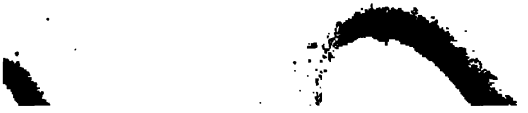
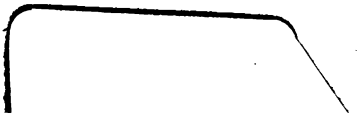
they had entered; none departed but them; the rest, who were drest in the white robes, now came forward to those who had come from Ventoliene. The principal of them advanced. "You now," said he, "are entered on the list of those whose duty it will be, not only to be good themselves, but to endeavour to make others so, as far as in their power lies, and to be in every sense of the word worshippers of the eternal God. You must return to Ventoliene; the bones of the innocent must be collected, and to seven select it will belong to set the troubled spirits there at rest; after which, all must return here, when a final division will be made of the property belonging to the members; each individual, I trust, will then be permanently happy. When the ashes of the dead are placed in sacred ground, nothing further will be required of you; but your return to the palace must be

made

made directly, to see the last sacred ceremony performed over the remains of those long since numbered with the dead."

They all expressed their readiness to go, and the necessary instructions were given to father Gregory.

The prince Bononi stepped forward, embraced the captain, and testified his pleasure at again seeing him. Father Theodore likewise advanced, a mutual pleasure glowed in their countenances at again meeting. He returned their embrace, and said he hoped to be blest with their society, at his return to Florence. Mutual congratulations were given and received, and the whole assembly departed.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

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